From: Owen Bentley <owen.bentley@barkbythorpe.net>
Sent: 16 August 2021 15:26
To: localplans@charnwood.gov.uk
Subject: BABTAG comments on the pre-submission Local Plan
Attachments: BABTAG comments on the Charnwood Local Plan July 21 (3).docx

Dear Planners,
Below and also attached are the comments from BABTAG (Barkby and Barkby Thorpe Parishes Action Group) on the pre-submission Charnwood Local Plan.

Owen Bentley
Chairman BABTAG

[redacted]

BABTAG comments on the Charnwood Local Plan July 21

Comments relate to Policy DS3 Housing Allocations and specifically pages 33-37 paras.2.64-2.8 and to Leicester and Leicestershire's unmet need page 32 paras. 2.59-2.63

1 BABTAG notes that this is likely to be the only opportunity for local residents to comment and object on Charnwood's housing plans should the government's "Planning for the Future" reforms of the planning laws be adopted and the Leicester fringe zoned for development.

2 BABTAG is disappointed that its comments on the draft Local Plan submitted in November 2019 appear to have been ignored. Indeed rather than being reduced the size of some of the areas designated for housing have been increased with the consequence of the erosion of areas of local separation and green wedge.

3 The contradiction between the council's stated aim in the Local Plan "to protect landscape character and settlement separation" and its decision to permit building on areas of separation and green wedge leads BABTAG to the conclusion that the Local Plan in this regard is **unsound.**

4 BABTAG acknowledges the need for more houses in Charnwood but 1500 in our vicinity on top of the 4500 already approved is surely disproportionate for such a small area of the borough.

5 BABTAG notes that none of the nearby sites for housing is on brownfield land despite the borough's oft-spoken commitment to sparing the countryside.

6 BABTAG objects to the decision to build on greenfield sites on areas of separation between Barkby and Syston and Queniborough, specifically on sites HA1 land south-east of Syston, HA2 Barkby road Syston and HA3 land north of Barkby road Syston as it will lead to the coalescing of those communities together with Thurmaston in one suburban sprawl. For Barkby, referred to by Charnwood as "the jewel in the crown" of the borough, the loss of its setting in green fields will tarnish the jewel immensely and fundamentally alter the rural character of the village.

7 Such large scale development in greenfield areas of local separation bring in their wake consequences namely: Traffic and Air and Noise Pollution: 1500 new houses means an increase in population of 5000 on top of the 15000 who will eventually inhabit the 4500 houses of Thorpebury. There will inevitably be a substantial increase in road traffic through the villages worsening the air and noise pollution caused by slow-moving nose to tail traffic.

Flooding: Many of the houses will be built on the flood-plain at a time when climate change is adding to the risk of flooding. Burden on Local Services: Local services including doctors' surgeries, clinics and schools are already under pressure in the area. New services may be promised but experience says they are seldom delivered on time if at all.

8 Leicester's unmet need: BABTAG notes that the Local Plan does not cover the city of Leicester's unmet need for housing outside the city limits, a need that government methodology increased last year by 35% to 18,000 houses. Given that our area is being asked to take 38% of the whole of Charnwood's need BABTAG seeks assurance that any amendment to the Local Plan that accommodates part of the City's overspill excludes our parishes from that burden.

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