From: Katherine H.J [redacted]
Sent: 22 August 2021 18:32
To: localplans@charnwood.gov.uk
Subject: Local Plan 2021 -37

To whom it may concern,

I am contacting you directly by email as it seems individual residents cannot make their voice heard through the current submission forms.

My first and foremost concern is the Environment.

Despite there being many points in the plan stating that the aim is to increase biodiversity, build in places that do not flood and make good on environmental pledges cannot simply be true.

Firstly because places like Sileby, Barrow and Thurmaston all flood and are part of the Charnwood flood plain.
The building in Thurmaston of Thorpebury that has started this month, is all on fields that flood now since the development of Hamiltonn. The brook in that area is at least 8ft high and has exceeded that limit and most of the fields were essentially rice paddies with how much water was present.
And the very ancient hedges surrounding the site were ripped out 6-8 months ago prior to the development which was unnecessary and contradicts being sympathetic to the area as stated in the plan. The plan states that it will be sympathetic to the areas it is developing but it hasn't been shown.

The road is basically a pond outside roundhill with extreme heavy rainfall which never happened. And as a member of my household has been a resident of this area for over 65 years, attending all the village schools, can attest that this development is recent.
The field with the dead tree on the way to Barkby (from Thurmaston) has always flooded and other parts of the fields across the road all started flooding with the many housing estate additions that have been built in my lifetime (23 years) People do not respect the environment with the amount of rubbish that appears everywhere and why should they when green spaces are treated as nothing but a commodity to be built on.

Building similarities cannot keep the character of a small town or village when it's borders are constantly being expanded.

Concrete does not absorb water and in the summer stores heat. You don't have to be a scientist to feel the temperature difference between an urban and green area.

Will there be any green areas left if 1,111 homes are built each year in addition to the currently existing/ proceeding development? How will the lack of green spaces impact on the existing residents let alone new? Paths and walks have been heaving during the pandemic and churned up. If green spaces are so important, why is it acceptable to build on them? There are plenty of bridleways and footpaths in the highlighted areas. And the commencement of the Thorpebury ancient bridal way has been destroyed already with ripping out the hedges. WIll this just be a concrete path like hamilton?

How can the plan support biodiversity when the fields being built on are already so diverse? All sorts of plants, grasses, insects etc. call it home. We have hares and skylarks and yellow hammers and birds of prey like red kites and buzzards just to name a few. We have some at risk species and protected species such as bats so why is development even being considered? There are at least 3 houses I know of that have been empty for more than a year and I am sure there are more. Apparently there are 600,000 empty buildings in the UK, so why can't they be used for housing and businesses first? Is it because the profit margin is smaller?

In short, You can't be green and sustainable by building on grade 2 farm land, destroying the biodiversity that it claims to be trying to increase .. where will it go with all this development? New and existing plans need re thinking before the county is nothing but a sea of houses and roads. We do understand that things have to change and develop. BUT it is the way, the speed and how it is done that needs BETTER consideration for the future. Otherwise it will just be

concrete.

Thank you,

Katherine HJ and J Hernon [redacted]