From: Ruth Middleton [redacted]
Sent: 22 August 2021 20:37
To: localplans@charnwood.gov.uk
Subject: Charnwood Borough Council Development Plan

Response to Charnwood Local Plan 2021-37

I am responding to the above-mentioned document, particularly in reference to the proposed expansion of Barrow Upon Soar. I have a number of concerns about these proposals.

1. The proposed figure of 700 new houses is not a figure which has been ascertained through an examination of the village, it is simply the number needed to allow for a considerable contribution from the builders involved in the development of the village in order to supply a new primary school.

2. The village sufferers from serious traffic congestion during certain times of the day. This is certainly not helped by the inadequate bridge which crosses the canal, which is traffic light controlled to allow the traffic to flow in one way only at all times. This, coupled with the ongoing serious flooding of Slash Lane, which causes traffic from Sileby to use the village to cross the River Soar, will result in polluting traffic jams in the village along Sileby Road and South Street and also into the village centre along the high street and North Street. The proposed sum of money to help ease traffic congestion within the village is inadequate to say the least.

3. The plan does not mention anywhere that there will need to be an expansion of GP services as the current GP practice has been beyond its limit for some time. The covenant on the current practice prohibits expansion on the current site.

4. The proposed site of the new school and the additional housing there housing is unsuitable. It is encroaching upon the precious green space within the village and the proposal is to surround the cemetery. The report states that "there was a shortfall of natural and semi natural open spaces in Barrow Upon Soar." It also states that there is a need to "reduce the risk to people and properties from flooding, particularly in vulnerable locations such as the villages of the Soar." Turning over a large amount of green space in this area into housing completely contradicts this statement.

5. The report states that the "expansion of Barrow Upon Soar would accord more strongly with the Council vision and objectives as it would have least impact on landscape character or settlement identity." How can making Barrow a small-scale town be in accordance with its historic village identity, an identity which it has retained since long before the Norman Conquest? Barrow has been expanded continually during the last 25 years, surely it has exceeded its limits?

6. The development proposed by the Charnwood Plan is not in accordance with the Barrow village Development Plan, upon which the people of Barrow Upon Soar democratically voted and agreed. What was the point of compiling a village plan if it is to be completely ignored by the Borough Council?

7 Charnwood Development Plan states that Barrow Upon Soar has a "full range of services", yet it also acknowledges in the same document that the bus service in the village is limited and that the proposed new housing developments and the proposed school would not be served with a bus. This will mean further congestion around the village due to more cars used during the school drop off and pick up. Barrow is not in fact a community with a "full range of services". There is a small supermarket which does not have stock to cater to day-to-day needs, a car journey will need to be undertaken to allow access to a supermarket with a full range of goods. Furthermore, the small Co-Operative in the village is not within walking distance of these proposed development sites. Has Charnwood Borough Council a plan to deal with the problem of parking in Barrow? It allowed the original village car park to be sold for housing development some years ago. The small car park behind the Co-Op is not large enough and the other car park is meant to be for the train station and it is also not suitable for those with limited mobility. There is already a problem with people parking on double yellow lines to use takeaways in the village, which prevents the movement of traffic through the village at peak times. North Street and Nottingham Road are especially affected by this. It must also be noted that Barrow lacks a post office, something which is quite problematic, as people need to travel outside the village for this service.

8 The primary school has been full for some years. A proposed new school will need to be very large to take in the children who are currently having to go out of catchment, plus those who are arriving in the village due to new housing. With such a large number of school aged children in the village due to this and previous developments, plus developments in Sileby and Cossington, will Humphrey Perkins campus also be expanded and if so where will this expansion be?

9. I am very concerned that the proposed sites for development along both sides of Melton Road will result in flooding to the designated conservation area and the Millennium Park. The conservation area already experiences flooding. This did not occur before the building of the Poppy Fields estate. The area which is proposed behind the Millennium Park was turned down quite recently as unsuitable, yet the Borough Council is proposing to enlarge this area in the new Development Plan. What has happened to make this land suddenly suitable for building on? Any urban area will experience flooding if there is insufficient ground to absorb water, especially as we are experiencing a greater volume of water due to climate change. In recent years the houses around Fishpool Way have begun to

experience flooding when there is a very large volume of water. This is a very recent experience and I hope that Charnwood Borough Council is trying to find out the cause.

I ask that you reconsider your current plan to accommodate the difficulties Barrow Upon Soar would have in absorbing so many new residents into the village. Barrow is already rapidly loosing its village character; more new housing would ruin it completely.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Middleton