

## **Charnwood Local Plan – Post Hearing Consultation Response**

**Cllr Birgitta Worrall**

### **Re Draft Charnwood Local Plan; consultation regarding Viability, Draft Transport Strategy document, Updated Viability and Sustainability Assessment.**

My comments are based on the documents above.

I am extremely concerned that the Transport Plans do not sufficiently address education provision, sustainability and local need. I have real concern that the plan is not viable.

#### Updated Viability Work

1. The Charnwood Borough Councils viability report states that even S106 contributions are at the margins of viability. This is very worrying as there is no buffer.
2. It states that Government bids will be required to meet additional needs. This is extremely concerning in view of the three planned developments for the south of Loughborough equating to a total of 1350 houses. (HA15, HA16 and HA17) There is no certainty that any Government Funding will be available to support a shortfall from S106 funding.

#### Transport Strategy

##### Education

3. It is suggested that a large part of the mitigation will come from an increase in sustainable modes of travel. However, the infrastructure in the south of Loughborough does not support this as there is an oversubscription to local schools both at primary and secondary level. Currently one child at primary school is attending school 4.5 miles north of the home in the south of Loughborough as this was the nearest available school place that could be found. This is necessitating car travel through Loughborough as there is no available bus service. There are no definitive plans regarding secondary education provision.

##### Sustainability

4. I am concerned about the lack of plans to support Sustainable Travel in the south section of A6/A6004 in Loughborough with no plans to improve the Allendale roundabout or the Park Road roundabout and the cycling/walking path along Ling Road which links the two and provides the main route towards Loughborough from the South of Loughborough. With the plans for improvement to the flow of traffic and speed this will negatively impact on the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

##### Public Transport

5. No new service is planned with the new developments. There is currently one bus service along Fairmeadows Way and Laurel Road which serves the north section of a housing estate of 1480 households. It has 4 stops along this section. It does not operate after 6pm on weekdays and Saturdays and not at all on a Sunday/Bank holiday. More than 1000 homes are beyond walking distance of this service. Travel vouchers and improvements to bus shelters have been proposed as part of the new developments but this does not constitute ongoing sustainable travel. If local bus services will continue to rely on the commercial sector and subsidies there is no clarity as to how an increase in passenger services will be achieved. With another 1350 homes planned this will cause major transport issues along already congested roads on the estate and along the A6/A6004 corridor.

Yours Sincerely

Cllr Birgitta Worrall  
Ward Councillor for Woodthorpe Ward