

Matter 3A Written Statement – Raymond Grolimund (421)

With respect to the above forthcoming examination by the Planning Inspector, as a representor, I would like to add supplementary comments to this which I have already submitted.

My comments relate to the allocation of land in areas currently designated as being in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and within minor rural communities with limited scope for improved infrastructure.

One example of such an area has been identified as WIN 1 in Winchcombe. In considering the requirement for additional housing in areas such as I have highlighted above, I would urge the Planning Inspector to consider the particular difficulties which exist in an ancient town like Winchcombe which has already seen significant new developments taken place in recent years.

New housing developments of a medium or a major nature in these areas bring with them a significant increase in the number of motor vehicles. With very limited employment opportunities in the immediate area, commuting to distant places of employment becomes a necessity for many people. Ancient towns like Winchcombe have narrow, difficult streets unchanged since the days of horse drawn traffic with very many properties within the town having no off street parking. In recent years given the influx of new residents in the major developments I have already alluded to, traffic congestion, illegal and inconsiderate street parking has often resulted in chaotic scenes where public transport buses, delivery vehicles and sometimes fire engines are not able to progress through the town smoothly. With no prospect of any possible improvement in these streets by the county council with very many listed buildings unable to be altered or demolished, the situation will simply worsen with further development on the

scale of what might be accommodated in the land designated as WIN 1.

Only a major road improvement plan to the town eg a bypass to the B4632 would ease the situation within the town, which in the current economic climate is probably out of the question as far as Gloucestershire County Council is concerned.

I ask that the Planning Inspector considers my comments and recognises that areas like Winchcombe can reach a "saturation point" which can only be overcome by very significant infrastructure improvements which in themselves bring a deterioration in the quality of life to the people living in minor rural and ancient towns and contribute to the ultimate destruction of the very thing which makes them an attractive place to live in.

Raymond Grolimund