

## Melton Local Plan: South Sustainable Neighbourhood Response.

Melton Borough Council have invited residents to submit their views on the Melton Local Plan Focused changes. Please find my views below.

- The increase in traffic that would be caused by the siting of the proposed housing development and the Southern Relief Road would be a disaster for the residents of Burton Lazars. This is a small rural village already bisected by the busy Melton Road. Residents are at great risk from existing fast traffic levels when attempting to turn out of New Road, Cross Lane and Lime Street. It is ludicrous to devise a relief road for Melton that re-routes traffic through a village. Any relief road should by-pass Burton Lazars.
- The Corridor of Interest (C of I) and planned housing development along Kirby Lane threatens urban creep which will lead to the distinctive historic settlement of Burton Lazars being swallowed up by Melton suburbs.
- Previous plans have identified and supported the view of many village residents that an Area of Separation between Melton and Burton Lazars should be protected. The C of I encroaches massively into the earlier area of separation.
- The C of I and planned Southern Development threatens the open rural nature and character of the landscape it proposes to develop. It also poses a threat to the outlook/setting of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of St Lazarus. This is an archeological site of unique importance. There would also be considerable disruption to the protected natural flora & fauna .
- There is currently inadequate Health/Social care and quality employment opportunities to sustain the recent increase in residences that have been imposed along the Leicester Road and at the edge of the Melton Country Park. Melton Borough Council and Planning Dept. should direct their attention to providing better services for the existing population before encouraging an influx of people who will simply add to the pressure on already overstretched resources.
- Melton Mowbray (historic market town) and its beautiful rural setting and heritage are valuable assets as an attraction for visitor/tourists/scholars. The proposed plans are in danger of losing these assets through over-development into the rural landscape.

A few final comments:

I am not without experience with computer technology but I have found that MBC's hi-tech Local Plan Consultation website extremely confusing and difficult to navigate. For an ordinary person to find the specifics of a proposal is time-consuming and difficult to extract the sections that could impact their lives.

The presentations, wording and layout seem massively to favour planners and developers who naturally understand the jargon and processes. Ordinary folk have neither the time nor the expertise to navigate the -

process with its reliance on planning jargon and constant document cross-referencing. This does nothing to encourage a fully representative demographic.

MBC public consultation meetings tend to be so heavily steered/manipulated by the professionals who plan and lead them that the concerns of the general public are rarely addressed adequately. At times MBC answers are vague or incomprehensible. On occasions, those MBC key figures who could answer public questions are not present. This is very frustrating and leads to a feeling that engaging with the Council is pointless.

Sometimes the venues chosen for public meetings are either too small, or too formal so that potential consultees feel unable to represent their views.

I hope these comments will help MBC to better represent and provide for the needs of their electorate.

Mrs Y. Rowe