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Sent: 22 April 2020 22:38
To: planning.policy@n-somerset.gov.uk <planning.policy@n-somerset.gov.uk>
Subject: Local Plan pre-commencement consultation response

Please find below our comments on the North Somerset Local Plan: Pre-commencement Document (March 2020).

Firstly, we believe that there should be an extension to this consultation as, due to COVID19, many Parish Councils, like Bleadon, have not publicly discussed this consultation with the residents they represent, and/or presumably each other.

The consultation states, *"To provide clarity for future neighbourhood plans, the Local Plan will identify the housing requirements on a parish basis in the strategic policies ..."*

The NPPF states, *"In setting requirements for housing in designated neighbourhood areas, plan-making authorities should consider the areas or assets of particular importance (as set out in paragraph 11, footnote 6), which may restrict the scale, type or distribution of development in a neighbourhood plan area."*

It is therefore hoped that the future NSC Local Plan will:

- Continue to protect existing settlements, such as Bleadon's ancient Bronze Age settlement, keeping its existing settlement boundary with development constrained within it, and to protect the surrounding countryside, landscape and views that give Bleadon its rural character.
- Consider providing a 'Strategic Gap' between Bleadon and WSM, like its fellow Ward members Hutton & Locking, to protect the Bleadon Levels, Bleadon Moor and fields in the parish, that give and protect and Bleadon's rural character and settlement/infill village status.
- Continue to protect Bleadon's substantial, and some rare, habitats, flora and fauna e.g. grasslands, plants, wetlands, otters, bats, voles, newts, badgers, birds of prey, etc. wildlife reserves, e.g. Hellenge, Purn, and protected areas such SNCIs (E.g. Coombe Farm, Purn Hill, River Axe, Bleadon Hill, South Hill, Hellenge Hill to Loxton Wood Complex, Land West of Christon Plantation, Canada Coombe Scarp), SSSIs (e.g. Hellenge, Purn, Shiplate Slate, Axe), AONB (Mendip Hills), SAC, groundwater drinking sources, etc.,
- Continue to protect other historical aspects of the village e.g., Listed buildings (Village Well, St. Peter & St Paul's Church, Purn House Farm, Hillside Farmhouse), TPOs, 20 PROWs, Common Land & Village Greens (Purn Quarry, Village Green, Parish Cross area)
- In view of above, consider providing a conservation area for certain aspects of the parish and village e.g Bleadon Levels, Bleadon Moors, orchards, etc.
- Consider reviewing the green belt around Bristol to protect rural communities, including Bleadon, to provide for urban communities and economy nearer it's employment and commuter source, and thereby also reduce any resulting carbon footprint especially due to transportation issues.
- Continue to protect the air above us from noise and chemical pollution, and continue to refuse the Bristol Airport Expansion, now also in relation to the spread of pandemic outbreaks.
- Continue to protect our precious water, and climate change, by continuing to discourage the exploration and development of fossil fuels (including fracking) within North Somerset.

The NPPF also states, *"Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local*

area ... Housing requirement figures for neighbourhood plan areas are not binding as neighbourhood planning groups are not required to plan for housing. However, there is an expectation that housing requirement figures will be set in strategic polices, or an indicative figure provided on request." We ask that NSC take the above unique local circumstances into consideration when setting any housing requirement for the Parish of Bleadon. Please can you explain what will happen if a community does not agree with the housing requirement set for its Parish, how can residents request a review? What happens if a 'quota' is set and the developers building in the parish do not delivery it?

Please confirm receipt of this submission and its inclusion in the consultation.