


Sent: 11 November 2013 16:07
To: BDC strategic planning
Subject: Comments on Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030

I wish to comment on the Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030.

1. **Transport/traffic congestion and new houses:** the road infrastructure particularly at the A38/M42/B4096 junction will not be able to cope with the number of houses proposed. Traffic from Norton Farm, Perryfields and Whitford Road will use the A38 to gain access to the M42 and possibly Junction 4 of the M5. The A38 just cannot take that amount of traffic. I live on the B4096 very close to the M42/A38 junction and see daily the congestion that is caused. In the morning from 8am to around 9.30 am the M42 is virtually at a standstill. How on earth will the M42 cope with additional traffic? Whilst property developers contribute funds to help with congestion, it's just not enough. You also say that the developments should minimise the use of car based travel. For anyone at Norton Farm to use public transport to access, for example, Bromsgrove Train station is farcical. Previous Councils, and it looks as if this one is heading in the same direction, have been short-sighted over the amount of traffic that passes along the A38. They have not taken bold steps to manage the flow of traffic. By bold, how about taking a good look at the A38/M42 junction. Could it be widened so that traffic on the A38 does not have to stop? Could the flow of traffic be improved e.g. better use of the traffic lights? The traffic lights are a big part of the congestion.
2. **Air Quality:** for many years now we have suffered poor air quality at Lickey End. I do not think that additional traffic congestion is going to improve the air quality. Nothing, and I stress nothing, has been done to improve the air quality. Yes you are good at measuring it, and sending us letters to say we have poor air quality, but what are you going to physically DO about it. Paragraph 8.179 states *"Furthermore, in order to reduce congestion and improve air quality in the Town Centre, wherever possible, through-traffic will be routed via alternative less congested routes...."*. Where are the less congested routes and to get onto these routes do you have to pass through Lickey End? After all, the A38 is not even dual carriageway. How short-sighted was that!!
3. **New Housing:** you say in para 8.119 that the UK's ageing society poses one of the nation's greatest housing challenges. Yet the developments you approve do little to support the ageing population move out of their larger homes into something smaller. There is a requirement for affordable housing but where is there a requirement for e.g. bungalows? There are a lot of older residents who do not need to live in supported housing but who also don't want to deal with stairs and larger gardens.
4. **Town Centre regeneration:** I'm sorry but you have severely restricted the number of times I visit the town centre due to the parking charges. Every day I go out for coffee. At one time I would go daily into Bromsgrove (usually Costa) but if you are one minute over the hour you are heavily fined or if you park in the Asda car park then the charges mount up. I now only visit Bromsgrove if I need to go to the bank. I would go into Bromsgrove to eat of an evening but again I object to have to pay car parking up to 10pm. We held a family gathering in Bromsgrove and it was embarrassing to say that everyone had to pay car parking. Now we go outside of the town which is a pity as there are some nice restaurants and sadly we have the income to spend in those restaurants but don't because of the car parking. It's the straw that broke the camel's back!

What I enjoy about living in Bromsgrove (Council-controlled):

- The Artrix
- Walking for Health (but needs more promotion)
- The parks/green space around Bromsgrove e.g. Sanders Park
- Activities e.g. street theatre/bonfire/bandstand etc.
- The green/brown bin and general waste service



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