

FAO Richard Bacon, MP for South Norfolk

Good afternoon,

I feel obliged to contact you as my elected Member of Parliament, to raise my concerns about the South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan (reg 18 draft) in relation to Little Melton and in particular sites SN4052 and SN0488.

My husband has already lodged an objection on the relevant website and I have also emailed our three District Councillors, but we are so concerned about this draft Housing Allocations Plan, that I felt I must email you to raise our concerns before it is too late.

Our concerns are as follows:

- Why does this plan appear to override the Joint Core Strategy (JCS)? By this I mean, Policy 15 of the JCS identifies Little Melton 'as a 'service village' in which land will be allocated for small-scale housing growth in the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2026, within the range of 10-20 dwellings, subject to form, character and servicing constraints.' I am informed that since this JCS was written, a further 81 houses have been built in Little Melton and a further 30 will soon start construction. What is the point of having a JCS if it can be ignored at a future date and within its designated timeframe i.e. March 2026? What confidence does this give the electorate in South Norfolk's planning policy?
- Site SN4052 in Little Melton sits within the Southern Bypass Landscape Protection Zone, the purpose of which (I understand) is to protect and preserve open spaces on approaches close to Norwich. How then, can this be considered for housing development? What is the justification for this? What is the point of creating such areas, if they can be ignored when it suits housing developments?
- When you look at the fields that it is proposed to build sites SN4052 and SN0488, as local residents, we know that the development will not stop at only 25 houses per site and it is only a matter of time before large scale development is on our doorstep.
- Little Melton is adjacent to Hethersett. Any person looking at what has happened to the village of Hethersett and the vast housing development that is taking place there, is filled with alarm and fear that the same fate is destined for their village. I lived in Hethersett for six years, until 2012, and it has become an ugly, suburban sprawl and is, in my opinion, no longer a village.
- Where is the concern for protecting the life and character of a village? Surgeries are overrun and cannot cope, schools battle with large increases in pupil numbers, village roads are choked with traffic and noise and air pollution increases.

- As a South Norfolk resident, the main factor for selecting a site for new housing developments in any village or small town (without a flood risk) seems to be merely that is close to a dual carriageway (for example Hethersett, Wymondham, Easton). Is proximity to a dual carriageway the main justification? My fear is that Little Melton will end up like Hethersett - a tiny village centre, surrounded by massive housing development.
- No concern appears to be given for people to have access to green spaces. New housing on sites SN4052 and SN0488 would be over 1.5km from the village hall, so for many people, not within walking distance for green spaces or community places. What about building new housing in a place where residents can enjoy quality air and low noise pollution? That's certainly not the case in South Norfolk where housing developments overlook dual carriageways. If these two developments are permitted in Little Melton, residents will be within half a mile of the A47.
- I understand that anyone (even a non-landowner) can suggest a parcel of land for development. How can this be?
- Planning applications are a modern-day blight. Many house owners live in fear of discovering a development is going to be built on, or close to, their property boundary. My husband has raised his objection on the necessary website, but people are only given a paltry 100 words with which to comment. What can you say in 100 words? How is it possible to raise a coherent objection in only 100 words about something that might have a lasting impact on the quality of your home and life?
- Why is it that South Norfolk's plans and policies do not reassure local residents that consideration will be given to planning sympathetic new developments that will mitigate the impact on current local housing and residents so that they will not be overlooked? Why can't plans promote access to green spaces, consider air and noise pollution and protect wildlife and trees? This would help to allay the fear of new developments. Instead, most people feel that the driving force is money and profit and their anxieties are either ignored or under-represented.
- We see these developments as accelerating the decline of village life in South Norfolk. Hethersett has become a large, ugly, suburban sprawl, Easton's fate is similar and now we fear for Little Melton.

I email you as my elected Conservative Member of Parliament in the hope that you will take up South Norfolk's case and in particular that of Little Melton before it is too late.

Thank you for taking time to read my message.

Kind regards
 Natalie Bennett
 (Roger & Natalie Bennett)