

Good afternoon.

My name is John Palmer [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I have a few comments to make on some of the draft Local Plan but do not want to fill in your website representation form as I am neither qualified to judge or particularly interested in whether the wording is legal or not. - I understood that you had an officer dedicated to regulatory services so I would hope that if he is doing his job correctly, all of the content will be legal without the need for endorsement by members of the public.

As for the Draft Local Plan, I find it strange that a year or two ago a planning application for some 500+ houses in land off of Scalford Road and to the North of Dickens Drive was unanimously rejected on the grounds that the town could not cope with the increase of resulting traffic and the conclusion was that the houses could not be considered until a relief road was in place. Now I hear that we need the houses to be built to fund the relief road so we have a chicken and egg scenario. As planners, surely you have a responsibility to protect the Melton Market Town heritage and character so why do we need to expand so significantly? Where has the requirement for another 6000 houses come from? If from the government, why is this not being challenged? How does Melton Borough Council justify the need for such a large number? Where are all of these people coming from other than from outside the Borough? I note that you claim that an increase in population will attract new businesses but why has this not been the case in the past? I am Melton born and bred yet, like many others, had to spend almost all of my professional working life working in Leicester and Loughborough because of a lack of employment opportunities in Melton but I still chose to live here because this is where my family belong. We do not want Melton to become any more of commuter town than it already has to be.

I recognise that some of the Town's hotels are often used to house homeless families on an emergency basis but these numbers must only be a handful and certainly not a significant contribution to the 6000 projected need. I am also not aware of great numbers of homeless individuals living on the streets within the Borough.

Why wasn't the old aerodrome site pursued for development as was intended back in the 70's? A complete village (Kettleby Magna) was proposed which would have provided a suitable 'suburb' village and would have funded much of the relief road without inflicting harm to the character of Melton. Can this still be pursued?

As for current major employers, Jeld-Wen, Samworths and Mars all seem quite reliant on using agency labour from outside the Borough and of course these agency staff are not contributing to the Borough Council coffers and are probably not spending at any of the local businesses in the Town. How long before Mars finally decide to pull out of the town? Small time businesses employ small time numbers so I very much doubt if we will attract suitable businesses to warrant 6000 new houses.

Trends change and in my day, I lived with my parents until I married and bought my own

house yet now the trend seems to be move out from your parents and get your own place as soon as you can so there may be a market for more starter houses but not necessarily a need unless this is being seen as a means of generating more revenue for the Borough Council by additional Council Tax from the new properties plus bedroom tax on any local authority houses that they move out from.

Surely Planning decisions and policy must have rules to follow which should be totally independent of the finances.

On a different note, I am sure that others, like myself, are expressing the need to attract decent shops to the Town Centre which will generate both revenue and prosperity. All we seem to thrive on is either empty or charity shops. Attract decent shops and people will spend locally instead of driving off to the cities. There once was a plan to develop a shopping precinct to the rear of the Anne Of Cleves but that died a death for some reason. Why can't the Council lead the way and build the infrastructure to attract new shops?

I hope you consider my views and I look forward to hopefully an amended Local Plan.

Regards,
John Palmer

I write with concern over the failure of MBC to consider the proposed 3000 homes at Six Hills becoming part of the Local Plan. Surely this is such an important and significant factor in the future planning of Melton Borough that MBC cannot simply ignore it for fear of Government knuckle rapping for being late with Local Plan submission. Time to stand up and be counted. Act for the residents of Melton and stand by your decision as you were elected to do so.

Regards,
John Palmer

