



Roger Berry MP
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Hilary Severn
Avonside CPRE
The Countryside Room
Poole Court
Yate
SOUTH GLOS
BS37 5PP

1 September 2008

Dear Hilary

Public Consultation on the Draft Revised Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West

Many thanks for your letter on behalf the Avonside CPRE received on 19 August.

I very much share your concerns, both about the original proposals and the revised ones. I think that South Gloucestershire Council, on an all party basis, was correct to argue that a figure for South Gloucestershire Council greater than 21,500 is totally unacceptable because there is not a shred of evidence that the infrastructure implications of a figure above this could possibly be met.

I also share your concerns about the proposal for the East of the Bristol area in South Gloucestershire. I am totally opposed to this. As you say, this leads to a loss of Green Belt and threatens the credibility of the Green Belt between Bristol and Bath. These proposals will also put new house building in the wrong place. What we need is a better balance between homes and jobs to reduce the need for travel. This means that new housing development must be concentrated in the North of South Gloucestershire, not in Kingswood. The recent announcement, amongst others, that the MoD is to employ 3000 more people at Abbeywood strengthens this case. If we do not build homes nearer where jobs are we can forget our ambitions for sustainable transport and environmental policies.

RB/js

Please reply to: PO Box 130, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 5FB

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please contact the office on the above number

I expressed these views in the initial consultation exercise undertaken by South Gloucestershire Council, have repeated them in public on many occasions and am continuing to urge South Gloucestershire Council to respond to this consultation by making it clear that these proposals must be withdrawn.

I look forward to receiving from you your detailed views on these issues.

Please do not hesitate to contact me again at any time.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Berry', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Roger Berry
MP for Kingswood