

Stogumber Parish Council

16 February 2016

Brian Cook BA(Hons) DipTP MRTPI
Salla Arnold
3/12 Kite Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN

Chairman: Julian Spicer
Parish Clerk: Claire Morrison-Jones
The Orchard, Biscombe
Churchstanton
TAUNTON TA3 7PZ

stogumberpc@outlook.com

Dear Mr Cook

West Somerset Local Plan to 2032

Thank you for inviting Stogumber Parish Council to submit statements and attend hearings; we are most grateful that a small Parish Council has been offered this opportunity to contribute to the Examination process.

We have taken a close interest in the development of the draft Local Plan and, as you may be aware, have responded to earlier drafts. It is therefore with great regret that we find ourselves unable to participate in the Examination phase to the extent to which we have been invited. Quite simply, we do not have sufficient resources properly review and understand the great number of documents in different places on the West Somerset Council website. We suppose it is inevitable that examination of a Local Plan would give rise to lengthy and technical debate, and that such is the importance of a Local Plan, that debate should not be over-shortened or over-simplified merely to enable a wider audience to follow it. However, this does mean that a small Parish Council such as ours, with a range of other responsibilities and projects, must largely rely on planning professionals and better resourced organisations to ensure that the Local Plan treats small rural communities fairly and appropriately.

We are pleased to see that the final draft of the Local Plan has addressed many of the concerns that Stogumber Parish Council had raised in earlier responses. There is one policy that we think needs a simple amendment, and we would be very grateful if this could somehow be addressed at some point. This is Policy SC1; a Statement is attached, and we would like to attend the relevant Hearing.

Please let me know if you need anything further from us.

Many thanks, yours sincerely

Julian Spicer

Chairman