



## WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

2 Killick Way  
Williton  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA4 4PY

**Chairperson : Cllr Keith Richards**  
**Clerk : Mrs Michelle Francis**  
**Deputy Clerk : Mrs Sarah Towells**

**Tel: 01984 633979**  
**Email: [willitonpc@btconnect.com](mailto:willitonpc@btconnect.com)**  
**[www.willitonparishcouncil.org](http://www.willitonparishcouncil.org)**

15<sup>th</sup> July 2016

### FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL

#### CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE DRAFT LOCAL PLAN TO 2032.

From Williton Parish Council

With regard to your letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 and having read the documents and appendixes we have the following observations to make.

Our primary concern is Appendix D Sustainability Appraisal Addendum. In addressing this area of the report we refer to Williton Parish Council letter dated the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016 which was submitted to the inspector prior to the beginning of the original enquiry. We relate to this document (copy attached) because we do not feel that the issues in that original document have been adequately addressed. This is borne out by further observations that we draw your attention to below;

- Williton is overlooked
- Williton's future depends upon successful implementation of 2032 plan and we feel locating the majority of houses in Minehead is a strategic mistake as Williton is the hub of West Somerset with both shorter commute times to Bridgwater and Taunton. This would be both environmentally preferable whilst reducing the necessity of bypasses for Washford and Carhampton as the A39 already supports more traffic volume on a sub-standard A category road.
- Appendix C/Appendix B page 42 W12 – States that within Williton, properties will be built over the whole period, developing the site west of Mamsey House and north of Danesfield and St Peter's Schools.
- Policy W12 Map of proposed development in Williton. These will place tremendous strain on the village amenities and I could not see any reference to providing extra resources for this growth in population, for instance if the houses are constructed right next to the schools where are the extra classrooms that will be required going to be built?

Cont/

- Proposed-Modifications/9---WSP-to-2032-incorporating--Proposed-Modificat.aspx Under 2.5 Roads are mentioned as in Williton sits at the junction of the two major road links in West Somerset, the A39 from Minehead to Bridgwater, and the A358 from Taunton to Williton. Neither of these are trunk roads, they are both relatively narrow A roads. The A39 is restricted by a number of pinch points such as that at Kilve and Washford, where two HGVs have great difficulty in passing each other, whilst the A358 is constrained by three limited headroom railway bridges. Likewise the A358 subsequently joins the A39 it suffers from the same problems which we believe should be properly addressed when dealing with the whole infrastructure and environmental issues that this could impose not only on Williton but the outlying villages and subsequently Minehead. However there is no mention of Williton as a pinch point which it is at present on Mondays and Fridays, mainly due to Butlin's traffic, and will be more days of the week as traffic grows with the increase in population.
- Under 4.3 Improving accessibility to and from West Somerset  
There is nothing in the plan that actually makes any proviso for improving the road system, either by building by-passes for Williton or by widening the main A39 and A358 roads. Building on land north of Williton will leave precious little room for any by-pass in the future were this to be considered.

We draw your attention to other concerns that we believe have not been addressed in the report regarding future employment within the village because we do not believe this has been properly addressed when considering the planning and location of the buildings, plus the lack of services such as public transport, doctors, schools and other services. Whilst this is not a concern of the contractors we do believe that it should be when planning considerations are being made.

It is believed that the lack of forward thinking in this regard has had a detrimental effect on the business community and infrastructure in Williton which we believe should be the service centre of the area given its geographical position.

Having raised all the points above we would also like to put forward the following suggestions to alleviate the congestion and environmental issues ie the possibility of some of the resources coming in by sea, rail and the possibility of raising the bridges on the A358 thus allowing some HGV vehicles the use of that route, even though they would still have to be limited to the tonnage due to the structure of the roads. This may sound extreme but we believe in the long run these are viable alternatives that have never been considered in any review of our infrastructure.

CLlr Robert McDonald  
Vice-Chairman  
Williton Parish Council