

42 Marefield Lane
Tilton on the Hill
Leicestershire
LE7 9LJ

17/09/2023

Dear Councillor Knowles, LibDem councillors,

this is an objection to the **Statement of Common Ground** that involves plans to build 2,000 houses in the district as 'overspill' from Leicester, from a concerned resident of Harborough District.

I object to the Statement, any intention to vote for it, and hope to persuade you to do otherwise.

I live in Tilton on the Hill, a village of about 200 homes. The very notion of building TEN MORE TILTONS on the beautiful fields and woodlands of East Leicestershire should be enough to persuade anybody that this is a poor plan. Countryside moderates the damage that we are doing to the planet. We need countryside to absorb and filter water and slow down water flows, generate oxygen, absorb solar radiation. We need it to provide the biodiversity that moderates the ecosystem in which we exist. In short, we need it to keep us safe. Our priority must be to build new homes on brownfield sites that do not compromise the countryside and where services are focussed and societies supported. **Please change your plan.**

In addition to my deep *environmental concerns*, I have serious *social concerns* about this proposed initiative. Like many villages, Tilton is a total *service desert*. **We have no public transport.** Our young people are unable to escape - to work, socialise, see the World. It's a disaster. The social implications of this isolation are immense as we develop a wave of people with limited prospects and experience in their youth. Having lived through the isolation of lockdown our young people are now trapped by the removal of local transport services. Their development is curtailed, their opportunities are limited. But we also have no school (£1,000 per year and 1 hour per day each way on a tortuous bus route for our teenagers to get to secondary school), or anything else much. Some of you, rather opportunistically given the lack of services, showed up yesterday at the Electric Car Club launch. We are fighting and working to try to maintain basic services in the village with volunteer efforts like this, that happen through enormous (inefficient, time-consuming) personal effort. It's hard work. Expanding rural building and flooding under-served areas with new homes makes little sense given the appalling lack of facilities and inadequate provision that is hanging together through unsustainable volunteering.

Finally, and in light of all of this, you'll be aware of the Institute for Fiscal Studies Report R269 - in which public spending per capita by Local Authority is assessed nationally, and in which Leicestershire sits near the bottom as a consistently, cross-service underfunded LA. This lack of investment is the cause of much of the above, but adding people to a long term underfunded area will exacerbate the serious problems that currently exist. Please reconsider the idea of adding to what is already a serious problem for your constituents by building new homes and compounding problems for those who do and will live in Leicestershire.

Please change your plan.

Sincerely



Prof. Jason Dykes

Tilton on the Hill