

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lib Dems playing 'political games' over Local Plan

I AM WRITING in response to Cllr David Morson's (Liberal Democrat Group Leader) letter about the proposed local plan in last week's paper. His comments are extraordinary.

This is especially so given that Cllr Morson himself, as Vice Chairman of the council's Scrutiny Committee which met on June 12 2012, proposed the recommendation "to approve a strategy of dispersed development reflecting the existing hierarchy of settlements for the preparation of a Local Plan".

In moving this recommendation Cllr Morson is minuted as saying "that he appreciated the comments made by Cllr Watson and felt that there would not be anyone who was entirely happy with the proposed option, but the local plan had now benefited from two good discussions and the dispersal option did allow all areas to be considered for housing and also affordable housing. There was no dispute that the emergent option was supported by expert reports

which all suggested this option was the most viable in terms of empirical evidence".

It is very difficult to square this with the comments made by Cllr Morson in his letter last week. It is a shame that the Liberal Democrats see such an important and sensitive issue as an opportunity to play political games as demonstrated by recent letters from Lib Dem Councillors and activists.

The LibDem website proclaims their opposition to a new settlement, but their recent comments are opportunistic and contradictory. How can Cllr Morson have forgotten that as recently as June he proposed endorsement of the very plan that he now takes issue with!

- Jim Ketteridge
Leader Uttlesford District Council

Thaxted Road question

IF THE Thaxted Road site isn't a good place to position a Sainsbury's it certainly isn't a good place to position 880 houses!

Was Sainsbury's rejected a second time on the grounds that UDC had other plans for the site?

- Jen Hilton-Thomas
Saffron Walden

No plan is better than wrong plan

I READ WITH INTEREST Councillors Rolfe and Ketteridge's joint statement about their recent development plans for the district. There seemed to be a threat in that unless we approved and cemented the current plans we may end up with a developer coming along and building 1,000 homes anywhere they liked and we would be unable to prevent it.

Well I'm not sure that a developer could find a worse place to put a 1,000 homes than where the council has already proposed! I would hope that if a developer said they were going to add 880 homes to the east of Saffron Walden with no infrastructural improvement to the town and links to main transport arteries and employment, they would be turned down flat.

In my mind no plan is better than the wrong plan.

- Dave McLellan
Saffron Walden

'Unjustified and undemocratic' plan

I AM DISMAYED at the District Council's latest 'Uttlesford Plan' and the lack of any coherence or reason in it.

The question of the additional traffic which would be generated in the already over-congested Saffron Walden residential east to west routes remains unanswered. Peaslands Road is already a nightmare due to the much smaller Friends' School development. This route will become far worse and further gridlock would be created should the planned massive Radwinter Road development ever go ahead.

UDC should be aware that they need to completely rethink the plans, not just make token reductions in new housing number plans (as happened with the Friends' School development). Given the massive opposition to the Uttlesford Plan, councillors would be wise to consider their re-election chances should they choose to push ahead with an unjustified and undemocratic scheme.

- Paul Sinnott
Saffron Walden



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Ross Close, Opp Kath Semar Schools	0835	0835	0935
Thaxted Rd/Peaslands Rd	0840	0840	0940
Common (top), Ashdon Rd	0850	0850	0950
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