

**From:**  
**To:** [Programme Officer](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** SMDC local plan examination - OBJECTION  
**Date:** 23 September 2018 18:59:30

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## SMDC local plan examination - OBJECTION

To whom it may concern,

I object to many things in the documents I have received from Angela Wheate and Mark Dakeyne,

To begin with they are written in a way that seems to have been designed to be as difficult as possible for a lay person to make sense of.

There is also an assumption that the council has made an effort to contact residents to consult them. This is certainly not the case. All information I have gleaned has been from local action groups, never from the council.

People such as myself have made the decision to live in a small rural community. Many of us have paid a premium to do this because we believe that the village boundaries are sacrosanct and are there to protect both our villages and the countryside. I am dismayed to hear that the removal of village boundaries is being considered, and I wish to register my objection in the strongest possible terms.

The thought of the special character of our communities, the unique quality of our rural way of life and the beautiful pattern of fields and hedgerows being bulldozed away I find completely heart-breaking.

The County Council should be helping to protect the very special nature of the Staffordshire Moorlands and Churnet Valley, not trying to destroy it by having a local plan that paves the way for unrestricted development which will ruin this area forever.

There has been a local instance where the wishes of all local parties were ignored by government inspectors. Within the last year a local site was granted planning permission against a great deal of opposition from local residents, which is not unusual, however, this planning application had also been opposed by the local parish council, where as other planning applications had been approved. The application has also been declined by the Staffordshire Moorlands district council. Being told that ...

***'...community Strategy's Key Themes and Principles include that the Council will, ...involve, listen to and respond to local communities by providing services tailored to local needs and priorities..., encourage local communities that want to take more responsibility for themselves and....support community empowerment; these aspirations are considered to underpin all other areas of Community Strategy.'***

I find laughable.

I object to this proposed Local Plan for **being unsound and lacking legal compliance** and that **I have been discriminated against, and disenfranchised by the lack of consultation resultant to the poor quality of the 'Statement of Community Involvement' process.**

yours faithfully

Diana Gardner



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