

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk:
Ms Joanna van Tonder
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Representor: Barrow Gurney Parish Council

Issues:

- 3a-e** Spatial Strategy
- 3b** Green Belt
- 3c** SW Bristol Urban Extension
(Day 2, 25 November 2011)

- 4a-g** Delivery, Provision of Infrastructure
(Day 3, 13 December 2011)

- 3h.i** Appropriateness of Provisions for Bristol
Airport
(Day 4, 14 December 2011)

Robert Young
Programme Officer, Core Strategy Examination
North Somerset Council
c/o Floor 2, South Wing
Somerset House
Oxford Street
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1TG

2 November 2011

Dear Sir,

RE: **Barrow Gurney Parish Council Position Statement for Core Strategy Examination
North Somerset Council Local Development Framework**

Introduction

Barrow Gurney Parish is located 5 to 7 miles south west of Bristol in the Green Belt. It includes the A38 main road from Potters Hill north east of the Airport to the Barrow Street traffic signals and the Barrow Reservoirs, and the A370 from the B3130 split level junction to Monarchs way just north of the Barrow Hospital site.

Areas of settlement within the parish include Barrow Court (a grade II star listed building) and Church, the historic village of Barrow Gurney which is a proposed Conservation Area (mentioned in the Domesday Book), Naish Lane and the Hospital Cottages on the former Barrow Hospital site. The parish is both bisected and blighted by the narrow and winding B3130 Barrow Street. The road is single lane only in narrow areas, lacks pavement and is heavily used by Bristol orbital, commuter and the ever increasing airport traffic which results in severe community severance in the parish. South of the A38, the B3130 continues towards Winford and crosses the parish boundary at the Rock Lane / Elwell Lane junction with rising ground towards the Dundry slopes and Dundry.

Key issues affecting the Parish are:

1. The former Draft Regional Spatial Strategy which put forward the South West Bristol Urban extension containing some 10,000 dwellings (roughly the size of Clevedon), proposed on Green Belt

land between Barrow Reservoirs and the Bristol City Boundary. This generated strong opposition in the parishes of Long Ashton, Dundry and Barrow Gurney with some 40,000 objections (see North Somerset's response to the Inspector. The Draft RSS has been set aside by the incoming National Government and by the new North Somerset District Council. However, the Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which gives heavy weighting to economics and development at the apparent expense of other environmental and social sustainability issues, appears to have revived some of the proposals. The Parish responded to the NPPF Consultation by e mail on 17th October 2011).

2. The Proposals for Bristol Airport Expansion. The planning application was passed by North Somerset Council after long debate to allow growth up to a limit of 10mppa. However, the infrastructure to support the existing level of traffic, far less further growth, remains inadequate causing major traffic and environmental issues to the centre of the village on the B3130, as well as on the A38. Further growth will exacerbate these problems and must not be permitted until major infrastructure improvements have been carried out. This has been a long standing cause of concern recognized by Ministers and by our local MP, and debated in Parliament in 2004.

In short:

- We strongly support North Somerset's fair and thorough approach to assessing the published Core Strategy developed following a major consultation process.
- Our major concern is to support the preservation of the Green Belt, protecting its openness and environment, the outstanding landscape and resisting ribbon and other intrusive development.
- We note and are concerned about possible pressure from Developers to capitalise on the Draft NPPF at the expense of the Published Core Strategy now under examination. We believe that more emphasis should be given to Local Opinion and the spirit of Localism.
- We strongly support the concerns for the Green Belt, the need to reduce carbon and other harmful emissions as described by the Parish Councils Airport Association and other adverse aspects of the Bristol Airport Expansion expressed above, whilst recognising the need to provide a reasonable level of service.
- In the absence of proposals directly to relieve traffic through Barrow Gurney, we support the South Bristol Link Road scheme, as currently put forward by North Somerset Council together with Bristol City Council. We also support improved provision of Public Transport through rapid transit.

Yours Sincerely,

Clerk
For and on behalf of Barrow Gurney Parish Council