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14th December 2005
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Your Ref. SW/THM/

**TEWKESBURY LOCAL PLAN to 2011
Policy SD2, Farm Lane, Leckhampton**

Dear Mrs Thomas,

Thank you for your letter of 16th Nov. 2005, and also providing us with a copy of the GOSW representations to the Tewkesbury Local Plan second proposed modifications.

Following up on this information we have discussed the future strategic plan for Cheltenham with Tracey Birkinshaw (Strategic Land Use Manager) and Cheltenham Councillors (Councillor's Klara Sudbury, Robin MacDonald & Kenneth Buckland, meeting 1st Dec. 2005, Municipal Offices). Currently we have a major mismatch between the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Local Plans with respect to the Leckhampton area and Tewkesbury's SD2 policy. As you are aware, Cheltenham BC has clearly demonstrated that its housing need up to 2011 can be accommodated on previously developed land within the urban area and has no plans to develop land at Leckhampton. Cheltenham have gone further and recently identified a boundary for the Principal Urban Area. This boundary excludes 170 acres of land at Leckhampton and provides an important rural setting for the town, now considered by many visitors to be the centre for the Cotswolds.

In your representations to the Tewkesbury Borough Local Plan 2nd Proposed Modifications – July 2005, you have rightly stipulated for joint strategic planning with Cheltenham on policy SD2. Within the published local plans to 2011, no joint planning has been undertaken and policy SD2 phasing will not take into account opportunities to develop previously developed land within Cheltenham, rather than just within Tewkesbury district.

We understand that the strategic plans for the growth of Cheltenham and Gloucester PUA's to 2026 are now within the context of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South West (2006 - 2026). The site's sustainability is inextricably linked to a comprehensive development with land within Cheltenham Borough and clearly falls within the RSS framework. We cannot see any justification for its inclusion in Tewkesbury's local plan to 2011. Inclusion of policy SD2 in a local plan to 2011 is distorting the likely new housing figures for Tewkesbury District, disparate with the development requirements over this same period.

For this reason and given the accepted isolation of SD2, the impact on the Leckhampton community, the recommendations of the Inspectors' reports into Tewkesbury & Cheltenham Local Plans, and the Gloucestershire Joint Study Area work in respect of the RSS, we request that you *please* strengthen your representation to Tewkesbury BC to remove policy SD2.

Yours sincerely

Ian & Angie Bickerton, Gerry & Jacky Potter
Leckhampton Lanes Resident's Association (LLRA)
[LLRA representing 37 of 39 households of Farm, Kidnappers & Farm Court,](#)
[87 of 95 households of The Lanes, Blackthorn, Chestnut, Bryony Bank, Larch Rise, Alders & Spindles,](#)
[47 of 48 households of Brizen Lane and Nourse Close.](#)

Policy SD2 is already causing destruction of the wildlife habitat, with extreme hedgerow cutting (will email pictures next week) – we need GOSW support now.

Ref. Tewkesbury Borough Local Plan To 2011 Report Of Public Local Inquiry Into Objections
PINSM/G1630/429/5 December 2003 - Mary Travers Ba(Hons) DipTP MRTPI The Planning
Inspectorate <http://archive.tewkesbury.gov.uk/council/plans/inspectors-report.asp>