

Rosie Murray  
South Worcestershire Development Plan  
Orchard House  
Farrier Street  
Worcester  
WR1 3BB

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Dear Rosie

I am writing to you in my capacity as Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire to comment on your call for additional development sites across south Worcestershire.

The plan already includes room for over 23,000 homes in an area with a population of 300,000. In contrast the Wyre Forest plan calls for 4,000 and Bromsgrove calls for 4,000 while Birmingham, a city of one million people, calls for only 51,000.

This level of development already seems disproportionate. The South Worcestershire Development Plan is already very ambitious in its allocations for employment, housing and retail space.

There may be scope within the South Worcestershire Development plan to review some of the policies with regard to category 3 villages. There are villages in South Worcestershire which have seen a 10%-20% drop in their population over the last ten years, because as "Category 3" villages they are constrained with regard to housing.

In addition, there are occasionally some very reasonable requests for development of single properties within Conservation areas, perhaps on locations where there used to be a structure, perhaps as modest bungalows or eco-homes. Relaxing the

development rules on AONB and Conservation areas to allow well-placed and designed single properties where there are no local objections.

I appreciate that current planning fashion favours large “urban extensions” but the way communities have grown traditionally has been more organic, with a few houses migrating down a road and expansion happening incrementally. Allowing development of individual properties outwards along main roads would mean development happened where there are already decent transport links and would help to slow traffic.

In conclusion, while there may be room for some minor further infilling in our local plan, I think we should suggest that Birmingham increase its housing numbers to take some of the pressure off our green fields. A good proportion of people who live in our county commute to Birmingham, putting pressure on our transport network.

Yours sincerely

**Harriett Baldwin MP**  
Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire