

# MIDDLETON-CUM-FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Dear Sirs

## **Local Plan Review**

We thank you for the opportunity to respond to your consultation and for the helpful meeting with your colleagues, Messrs Brown and Taylor.

We welcome the generally restrictive policies that are being proposed for small villages and the fact that Middleton is rightly recognised as such a village. We have more than fulfilled our housing quota up to 2027 as set out in the extant plan and are supporting a mixed social and market home development of eight units on an exception site that will be coming before you shortly.

More generally we have three issues we should wish to raise.

First, with our aging population, we should like to see a policy encouraging the development of intermediate housing for elderly people. Such housing might be provided on exception sites around existing care homes or might be provided in stand-alone larger developments incorporating care facilities in or adjoining existing settlement.

Secondly, we note that the plan supports the development of energy infrastructure in East Suffolk. We appreciate that the Council has limited powers to influence the siting of major infrastructure including Sizewell C. We generally welcome developments which support renewable energy generation and distribution, but are sceptical with regard to the need for, and economics of, Sizewell C.

We also suggest that you might wish to develop a response to the possibility of applications to approve grid level battery storage facilities should these be forthcoming.

Whatever happens in the energy sector, we would expect the Council to have strong policies targeted on the mitigation of landscape intrusion, environmental damage and disruption caused by construction traffic. We are particularly concerned about the expected use of the B1122 Yoxford to Leiston route for construction work. The road is quite clearly unsuitable for the volume of traffic it will need to carry for the construction of Sizewell C – let alone the proposed Scottish Power Renewables and Continental Interconnector developments. Accordingly, we would urge you to develop policies to safeguard the proposed route of a relief road (the so-called route D) to take this traffic direct from the A12 south of Saxmundham to Sizewell.

Thirdly, we are concerned by the number of new houses that are bought as second homes in Middleton and villages like ours. We shall investigate the possibility of introducing a neighbourhood plan enshrining a policy that would preclude new houses being bought as secondary homes – but would welcome anything that you might say in the local plan to help. Such a policy would not only mitigate the dark windows that blight many of our rural villages, it would reduce external demand and make such homes more affordable.

Yours faithfully

Sharon Smith  
Clerk to Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council