

REP/175/001

RE: BANES Core Strategy Draft Programme

From: **Steve Willcox** (propertysearchuk@hotmail.co.uk)

Sent: 11 December 2011 21:11:02

To: Chris Banks (chris.banks@zen.co.uk)

Bath and North East Somerset Council - Core Strategy Examination.

Day 4 (Tuesday 24th) PM Section 5; 5.01; 5.49, Policies RA1, RA2, RA3, RA4, EPC3, EPC5, EPC6.

175- Stephen Willcox.

Dear Mr Banks

I will be attending the meeting with the Inspector on the 24th January 2012, as the former Ward Councillor for Clutton Ward (2003 to 2011).

I have grave concerns that the inclusion of Parish Council's as the representatives of the residents falls short of being a true and trusted method of a democratic process.

I was born in Cluton in 1952 and lived in the Council Houses for 26 years before moving to Clutton Hill, I have lived there for the past 34 years.

As a Parish Councillor for 4 years before becoming the District Councillor in 2003 I was interested in the workings of the Parish Council and it soon became apparent that the vast majority of Parishioners do not attend or are not aware of the importance of the Parish Council.

I have attended almost every Parish Council meeting at Clutton from 1995 to 2011 and clearly the attendance of the Public has been somewhat sparse. (as little as 3 residents at some meetings)

The other two Parishes that I represented (Stanton Drew and Chelwood) of which I again attended almost every one from 2003 to 2011 was very poorly attended by the public, sometimes no one would turn up.

Clutton Parish Council has as far as I can remember never been elected by the residents, they have either obtained their positions by Default or Co-opted by the other Councillors.

This means that the Residents have never elected their Parish Council as at the time of the Election there was not enough residents putting their name forwards, this cannot be right.

Parish Council are in most cases out of touch with the Residents of which they represent and are making decisions on their behalf without consulting them.

This was clearly demonstrated by a recent application of major importance to the village were the Parish Council met in the Private Residence of the Clerk, discussed, voted on the application and then at the next meeting in Public were each given a five page motion to consider. They then voted on the motion as written without giving out copies for the public to read, all this shows that the Parish Council are not representing the Public that they are supposed to serve.

I trust that I will be able to put my concerns to the Inspector on Tuesday 24th January 2012 with a view that the Inclusion of Parish Councils as being the representatives of the community is **removes** from the Core Strategy.

Kind Regards.



<http://sn131w.snt131.mail.live.com/mail/PrintMessages.aspx?cpids=9691837a-ab99-476f...> 12/12/2011

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