

From Emma Smith
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I am writing with my statement as I cannot attend today:

I read the Cala transport statement with interest as traffic is a huge concern for me living on Watford Road.

There are several concerns I draw from reading this:

1. The document intimates there are local employment opportunities to sustain 700 + new dwellings and in its evidence names 6 local employers. One listed is the walk in closet - a clothes shop. I am the 'owner' of the walk in closet. It is a fledgling business run from a small room in my home. It's a side job and I have a single rail of clothes. I mostly sell at fairs but do offer private appointments. I am not VAT registered, am not a shop and certainly will never be an employer. My sales in the last 5 months total about £1000!

My concern is that the statement/assertion that there is plenty of local employment is simply not true. I have been found on google with no contact to ascertain if I could offer employment or the size of my business. All those listed are small employers and probably all at or near minimum wage. How can an argument be made in an official document without fact checking?

2. The plan focuses on travel to 4 rail stations, with a plan for bike journeys being the favoured mode of travel to and from stations and yet they only expect to add 12 bike journeys in peak hours? This forecast will not ease traffic. Having worked in both London & Watford I can assure you rail travel has NOT been ideal. For London, the train is 19 minutes- sounds great for a commuter, but to get to St Albans City station by bus from Chiswell involves 2 buses & an hours travel before I even get to the train - I drove to the station and would if doing that commute today.

For Watford, the Abbey line is pretty unreliable and with parking at work, again, I drove.

3. The proposal includes a 2fe primary school or a special needs school. It is not primary education that's needed, it's secondary. Our local primary schools are excellent & serve the community. The local secondary (Marlborough) is over-subscribed (and this is not a first choice school in St.Albans). It is an excellent school but it has been pushed to expand its PAN again this year - I am a governor at the school. With education cuts and pressures, retaining teachers is a constant battle, we have expanded and increased our PAN to capacity over the last 6 years. This size of development will put unsolvable pressure on access to secondary education and no provision or mention of this is included?

I am not against development of new housing stock, I know it's needed, but this joint development is too big and we do not have the employment, secondary education or roads to facilitate it.

A village needs much smaller scale development!

Thank you for considering my statement

Emma Smith
The Walk in Closet.