**Advice on commenting on the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP)**

Dear Member

We are sorry to break into the pre-Christmas activity, but several residents have not been sure of the mechanics of the JSP consultation. We have been concerned that the JSP website is far from friendly, and could put people off, by concentrating on technicalities. Indeed, some people have assumed that it was necessary to use the form available on the website.

For the avoidance of doubt, we have consulted North Somerset Council (NSC), **and it is not necessary to use the form.** The JSP will accept an email to comment@jointplanningwofe.org.uk provided a name is supplied, and by post with a name and address.

Ideally, you would read the letter recently delivered to Backwell residents, “The Future of Backwell”, which suggests some key points to make. Using the few key words we show in it will help to reinforce your point. It is attached to this email. We have this and other material on the BRA website.

The BRA committee will be making a detailed comment, and will pick up on all the technicalities, using all the appropriate planning language. The Inspector will not assume that all residents have the time to read the JSP or be familiar with the jargon. Every comment will be considered – even if it has no technical jargon.

**Simply make your comments in your own words – by the deadline of Wed 10th January. It is the chance for residents to show the strength of feeling in Backwell.**

**This concludes the main message of this email**.**We give below some of the helpful input from NSC for those wishing to make fuller comments**

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*Two documents from the JSP are attached, which give guidance notes, and the form which can be used.*

*The JSP is at a formal stage in the plan making process and the inspector, who will be assessing the Plan, will be specifically looking at whether or not the plan is sound, complies with the legal requirements and has been prepared through co-operation with other bodies. The guidance form is intended to explain what these terms mean, so that people can have an appreciation of how they need to frame a comment. Comments are most useful if they state which part of the plan they relate to and give a reason for the objection, including what changes should be made to the plan to make it “sound” and workable.*

*However, people choose to submit a comment, in order for it to be valid (i.e. “duly made”) it*

* *cannot be anonymous*
* *must include a means of contact i.e. email or home address*
* *be received by 10 January;*
* *not contain offensive or racist language; and*
* *be related only to the proposals within the Joint Spatial Plan*

*It is understood that many people will not be familiar with the Plan making process, or indeed have looked at the Joint Spatial Plan document itself, but have perhaps just heard about it through word of mouth, news, other publicity etc. So, for your information, the Plan sets out background and policy framework in chapters 1-4 and then follows with a series of policies: -*

*Policy 1 The Housing requirement i.e. how much housing is needed in the West of England Area to 2036*

*Policy 2 The Spatial Strategy i.e. how this is to be distributed across the West of England Authority areas*

*Policy 3 The affordable housing target*

*…..*

*Policy 6 looks at the strategic infrastructure requirement*

*Policy 7 is the Strategic Development Locations (SDL’s) 7.4 being Backwell and 7.7 being Nailsea. The policies give details of everything which is proposed.*

*It is very useful when a representation is submitted if it includes the name of the Policy i.e. for Backwell Policy 7.4, information on what is wrong with the policy and why, and what would be needed to make it right. This is basically what the guidance notes aim to do.*

Best wishes

From your BRA Committee                                          19th December 2017

**We hope you have a great festive time in our lovely village!!**