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Mr Ian Kemp  
Programme Officer  
South Wiltshire Core Strategy Examination  
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Date: 24 July 2011

Dear Sir,       **SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION**

Further to our previous submissions on 21 June 2010 and 25 May 2011, Fovant Parish Council requests the opportunity to attend the appropriate Hearing Session to make the following short representations relating to the following issues:

- 1) Incorrect designation of Fovant as a Secondary Village; and
- 2) Lack of opportunity for sustainable development within Fovant as a Secondary Village.

#### Incorrect designation of Fovant as a Secondary Village

Contrary to the statement at Appendix Six of Topic Paper 3, Addendum 2: Sustainable Settlement Strategy, Fovant has just two Basic Facilities which are 1 General Shop and 1 Means of Journey to Work Public Transport. Fovant has no School, nor a separate Post Office.

3.35 of Topic Paper 3, Addendum 2: Sustainable Settlement Strategy, defines a Secondary Village as 'Other settlements with three or four Basic Facilities'.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Fovant fails to meet the stated definition of a Secondary Village and **it is requested that the South Wiltshire Core Strategy be amended to classify Fovant as a Small Village** (as evidenced by Chilmark which is also in the Tisbury Community Area, which also has just two Basic Facilities and which is classified as a Small Village).

#### Lack of opportunity for sustainable development within Fovant

Whilst it is acknowledged that every village must present difficulties for supporting sustainable development, it is submitted that Fovant has particular multiple limitations which significantly impair the opportunity to support sustainable development. **It is submitted that defining Fovant as a Small Village better reflects the lack of opportunity for sustainable development** for at least the following reasons:

Although Fovant is one of the larger villages in the Tisbury Community Area, it is submitted that the Core Strategy recognises that it is not size but the opportunity for sustainability that is the key consideration.

Fovant is in an Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty, has two Conservation Areas, a Housing Restraint Area and an area of Important Open Space, all of which limit the opportunity for development.

Fovant is a ribbon development generally running north-south along steep valleys of tributaries of the Nadder. The Core Strategy recognises that where settlements are linear or dispersed, further development would not necessarily contribute to sustainability objectives.

Historic development has occurred along the tributaries which are considered to present a flood risk. Areas to the north and west of Fovant are also identified as being adjacent an area of Localised Flooding Incidents by the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Development to the east and west behind these historic dwellings on the valley sides has been consistently rejected by the Planning Office and Planning Inspectorate.

The area to the north and to the west of Fovant was identified in the Town and Landscape Analysis as providing important open countryside separating Fovant from surrounding villages.

Furthermore, Fovant has areas in the Settlement Setting Assessment marked as County Wildlife Sites and Ancient Woodland.

The ribbon layout has meant that sites examined for small scale development on the outskirts of the village have been rejected for being too far from the remaining two basic facilities. Provision of development away from the remaining two basic facilities will likely lead to increased parking near an already dangerous junction with the A30.

The existing Housing Policy Boundary appears to recognise the limited opportunity for sustainable growth.

Planning applications for increasing the density of housing towards the centre of the village have been rejected by the Planning Office.

In terms of infrastructure, Fovant has no street lighting, no effective pedestrian walkway facilities, narrow (often single-track lanes), limited capacity to deal with additional sewerage and is often subject to instability in the power supply.

The public bus service provides limited opportunity to travel between Salisbury and Shaftesbury.

There are very few employment opportunities within the village with the vast majority of working residents commuting some distance for employment (both Salisbury and Shaftesbury being over 10 miles away).

There is no school and children normally attend one of three schools, each in different Community Areas.

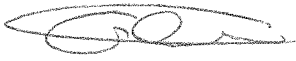
Fovant has a long-established traffic and parking problems within the village, presumably as a result of reliance on cars for transportation to schools, shopping and employment.

For these reasons, the opportunity to provide further significant housing in Fovant whilst maintaining its rural character and co-locating that housing close to the remaining basic facilities is significantly impaired. In particular, it is submitted that there is a real risk that development on the scale proposed (which would represent around a 25% increase in dwellings) would lead to falsely merging or urbanising the village and lead to an excessive reliance on the car, contrary to the objectives of the Core Strategy.

### Summary

In view of the forgoing, **it is respectfully requested that the South Wiltshire Core Strategy be amended to correctly designate Fovant as a Small Village.**

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Leppard', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Leppard  
Chairman, Fovant Parish Council