

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

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HEARING STATEMENT

What part of the CS is unsound

Paragraph 10.7 states that by 2026 Mere will provide a good range of services and good levels of employment. We cannot see how this vision will be achieved because there are no Core Policies that would seek to address the current decline in local shops and services.

How the CS is unsound

There are no Core Policies relating to retail in rural areas, yet Core Policy 7 sets a whole series of strategies to improve, regenerate and support retail in Salisbury centre. Whilst we recognise that Salisbury is a principal shopping centre and proactive steps should be taken to improve its retail status, we also feel that there needs to be Core Policies in place for rural areas to ensure that the smaller towns and villages can attain the government's overarching objective of sustainable economic growth.

How the CS can be made sound

Policy EC6 of PPS4* states that 'In rural areas, local planning authorities should seek to remedy any identified deficiencies in local shopping and other facilities to serve people's day-to-day needs and help address social exclusion.' Policy EC8 of PPS4 states 'Local planning authorities should take into account the need to make provision for adequate levels of good quality secure parking in town centres to encourage investment and maintain their vitality and viability' and 'Local planning authorities should take into the account the differing needs of rural and urban areas.'

What is the precise/change wording that representors are seeking?

The Core Strategy should include (somewhere) the provision of free public car parking in small towns and villages in the rural areas in order to encourage people to shop locally and in order to protect local services and community facilities in order to achieve sustainable economic growth and promote self containment.

The Draft Revised Regional Spatial Strategy says: 'It is not practical or desirable to seek to apply a uniform set of parking standards in the South West region. The diversity of the region means that standards that might be appropriate in some of the larger urban centres may not be so in some of the SSCTs or the smaller towns and villages. Therefore parking standards should be based on an assessment of accessibility by sustainable modes.'

The Core Strategy should therefore include separate policies for urban and rural areas in terms of parking standards for new development.

The Core Strategy should include other means in which the Local Planning Authority can support shops, services and public houses in rural areas, for example a relaxation of Conservation Area Planning Regulations and advertisement regulations.

For the above purposes it would be helpful to have clear definition between the rural areas and urban areas within the Core Strategy Document.

*Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS4) sets out the Government's comprehensive policy framework for planning for sustainable economic development in urban and rural areas.

This replaces *Planning Policy Guidance 4: Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms* (PPG4) and *Planning Policy Guidance 5: Simplified Planning Zones* (PPG5) both published on 10 November 1992; *Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres* (PPS6) published on 21 March 2005; and the economic development sections of *Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas* (PPS7) published on 3 August 2004.