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Mr Ian Kemp  
Programme Officer  
South Wiltshire Core Strategy Examination  
36 Campbell Street  
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Date: 20 June 2010

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

The Parish Council acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010, confirming the recent announcement by Government that the Regional Spatial Strategy would be abolished and that the decision-making powers would be transferred back to the Wiltshire Council.

You have requested our views (if any) regarding any possible impact of that decision upon the soundness of the Wiltshire Council's Core Strategy document against which our Parish Council made comments.

We offer our response to your question as follows:

- i) Where the Wiltshire Council's Core Strategy has been materially driven from the perceived need to meet imposed housing targets originating from Central Government and/or the RDA, then the soundness of the Core Strategy document must be questionable.
- ii) Where the Wiltshire Council's Core Strategy document reflects its own truly independent locally derived estimates of housing need and has taken into account local views, then the resultant Core Strategy derived therefrom will have continuing validity.

Notwithstanding the validity or otherwise of the housing need requirement 'figures' used in the Core Strategy document, we believe that the Wiltshire Core Strategy document will have ongoing validity with respect to policy for the identification of preferred 'development areas' within south/south west Wiltshire (including affordable housing provision). However, the Council consider the policy with respect to those areas where further housing development **is not** to be encouraged (i.e. AONB, Conservation Areas, SSIs, important open spaces and certain small rural villages) underlines the importance of identifying up to date local needs.

We trust that this input will be useful to you.

Yours faithfully,

*Elizabeth Young*

Elizabeth Young  
Clerk to the Parish Council