

# CHURCHILL AND LANGFORD RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

(CALRAG) IS AN ORGANISATION OF CONCERNED LOCAL RESIDENTS

## RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION REGARDING THE WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT SPATIAL PLAN PERTAINING TO NORTH SOMERSET

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. CALRAG accepts that there is a need for more homes. Our strapline is “Good development is development in the right place”. We are now a group of some 30 people who have ensured that the local community are informed about the proposals within the JSP and JTS. We have listened to local residents and heard their views on doorsteps and at public meetings that we have advertised widely in the villages. We believe that the response below reflects their views
- 1.2. As a result OF 1.1 ABOVE a group of informed professionals living in the villages and possessing relevant skills and a wide range of views pertaining to the proposals within the JSP, have come forward to assist. Our group now includes scientists, environmentalists, engineers, planners, IT specialists and public transport experts. These people are innovative thinkers and set out with determination to approach the JSP positively and with an open mind. We feel that this joined-up thinking could be extremely valuable but we cannot submit all the evidence within the very tight timescale.
- 1.3. The four Local Authorities involved in the new West of England Authority have had several years of preparation time and millions of pounds of public money available to devote to this planning exercise. We, the local community, by contrast are under-resourced and time-poor and yet we are expected to offer our considered response within a brief window of seven weeks over the festive period.
- 1.4. We are assembling a detailed examination of these complex issues, buttressed by extensive quantitative analysis, but it is impossible to collect together all this information in the short time permitted by this remarkably abbreviated consultation period.
- 1.5. Consequently, we reserve the right to bring forward this further data in due course, but before the Public Inquiry in summer 2018. Furthermore, we assert our undoubted right, within a democracy, to do so. We also expect to be able to represent our case, in person, at the Inquiry itself.

### 2. JSP RESPONSE so far.

- 2.1. **Is the JSP Legally compliant?** We believe that it is not legally compliant for the following reasons:
  - 2.1.1. Despite our positive approach and study of the issues, Churchill and Langford Residents Action Group concludes that it must object in the most emphatic terms at the lack of adequate consultation regarding the Joint Spatial Plan.
  - 2.1.2. This proposal affects local inhabitants as profoundly as any local event likely to occur within a single lifetime.