COMMENTS ON THE SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

BY COUNCILLOR KATE ROLFE 2/3/2023

I support the concept of a 20 minute neighbourhood however I believe it would be difficult to achieve this by adding huge numbers of houses on the edges of Stratford-upon-Avon and other towns within south Warwickshire. This concept can however be achieve on a new settlement.

By adding large amounts of housing to the edges of towns creates isolation and community cohesion.

On a new settlement, providing that the infrastructure is in place beforehand, a new community is created immediately.

In south east Stratford there are two choices – to have 3000 houses tacked onto an already existing settlement or creating a new settlement with its own infrastructure.

My choice would be a new settlement.

We need to look closely at adding 3000 houses to the edge of Stratford – the viability of social inclusion, the viability of physical infrastructure – roads, rail, schools, community centres, pubs and shops. There would be none of this by adding this number of housing to south east of Stratford.

A new settlement with infrastructure in place is, in my opinion, the only alternative.

We must look at amending our planning conditions to ensure that doctors surgeries, schools etc are in place long before occupancy. We must look at road infrastructure being in place before occupancy and we must ensure public transport is put in place without there being a timeline. All too often developers pay for something to be in place for a short period of time and then it ends and there is no financial support for it to continue.

We must ensure viability of jobs. Times have changed since covid and we need to build developments with good internet connections so that people can work from home.

We must look at creating more open spaces for everyone to use.

We need to strongly consider building housing near to rail corridors.

A transport plan needs to be developed before any consideration is given to any housing development.

Any future housing should be of good quality and should include all green credentials – solar panels, passiv housing. Housing should have green infrastructure around it – space to breathe and space to congregate. We must be mindful of creating communities and not isolating them.