

Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan Response Form



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- The Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan now been formally submitted to South Somerset District Council who are legally required to undertake public consultation.
- Please use this form if you wish to support or object to the Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan.
- Please return this form by **midnight on 8 July 2022**. Representations received after this date will not be accepted.

Completed Forms should be returned:

- **By post** to the Planning Policy Team, South Somerset District Council at the address above
- **By e-mail** to: planningpolicy@southsomerset.gov.uk

Part A- Contact Details

Personal Details	Agent's Details* (if applicable)
Name: [REDACTED]	Agent Name:
Organisation: — <i>If Applicable</i>	Company Name:
Address: [REDACTED]	Address:
Postcode:	Postcode:
Email:	Email:
Tel:	Tel:
Signature: [REDACTED]	Date: 5.7.22

**If an agent is appointed, please fill in your name and the full contact details of the agent. Where an agent is used, the agent will be the point of contact.*

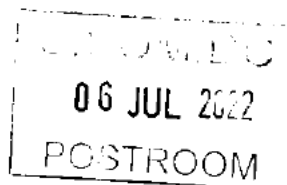
Please note that representations should be attributable to named individuals or organisations at a postal address. We are required to send comments received in full to the Examiner, but we won't be placing the comments on the Council's website. Comments will be kept for three months from when the plan is formally made. Any personal contact details received will otherwise only be used by the District Council to keep the respondent informed of the Neighbourhood Plan's progress. A summary of any representations received will be published on the Council's Website. Respondents should take care that their comments could not be traced back to them and to not reveal any identifying factors in their statements.

Please confirm you give your consent to the above use of your contact details. Please Tick Box



The Council's Privacy Policy can be found on its website here: [South Somerset District Council - Privacy and data protection](#)

Part B – Your Comments



1. To which proposed section or policy does your representation relate? <i>Please use a separate form for each section or policy you wish to comment on.</i>	<u>For Office Use Only</u> Ref:
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ILM8, ILM9, ILM10 AND ILM 11

2. Please outline your comments below (continue on an additional sheet if necessary)

SEE ATTACHED NOTES.

3. What Changes would you suggest should be made to the Plan?

NP. SHOULD REMOVE REFERENCE TO WHAT IS IN EFFECT PEDESTRIANISATION OR THE NP. AS IT STANDS NOT GO TO REFERENDUM.

Future Progress of the Neighbourhood Plan for Ilminster

Please indicate if you wish to be notified about subsequent progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, including when the District Council makes a decision about 'making' the plan (under Regulation 19), by ticking here. We will contact you by <u>e-mail only</u> unless you request otherwise.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan 2022

ILM8, ILM9, ILM10, ILM11 Representations re Reg 16 Consultation.

My representations/objections relate to these various policies insofar as they refer to vehicular activity, parking and access, and also to the emphasis and importance placed on walkers and cyclists. All this in the context of the commercial/retail lifeblood of the town - *The High Street*

PEDESTRIANISATION

My representations/objections are to the proposals that refer to the suggested policy of de facto pedestrianisation of the town centre. Although this definition is never used, presumably to semi-conceal the proposal, this is in fact buried in the proposals.

ILM8 10.4.4 refers to:

'...the need to reduce, if not remove all car movements in the centre of town...'

ILM11 point c. refers to:

'A shared surface approach where pedestrians have priority over vehicular traffic most of the time.'

It should be noted that at the presentation of the INP under Reg 14 on 30 June 2020 at the Shrubbery Hotel, I put the question to the chair of the meeting, who I understood to be the chair of ITC, that the draft proposals did in fact amount to pedestrianisation and was answered by one of the attending planning consultants to the effect that 'shared surfaces' and the accompanying proposals did not amount to pedestrianisation. I put it to the committee that this was in fact planning consultant jargon and that in effect the position would not be generally be clear, and that this could be considered as amounting to deceit. The chairman confirmed that this would be addressed as any consultation should use clear language familiar to all.

This has clearly not happened, and I would suggest that the consultation has not been valid.

CYCLING AND WALKERS

While there are many worthy and laudable proposals concerning walkers and cyclist in ILM8, ILM9, ILM10 and ILM11 such as improved signage and road

markings, improved junctions, and sensitively designed bike racks it should be recognised that walkers and particularly cyclists do not and will never contribute much to the commercial/retail activity of the town centre.

The current commercial/retail activity and sustainability of the town centre depends virtually entirely on viability and success of '*The High Street*', being the immediate streets radiating from the market square. High Streets are particularly fragile and vulnerable at the moment largely due to on line retailing and other factors.

Commercial activity/retailing relies almost entirely on town residents and very importantly the wider catchment area made up of numerous villages such as Broadway, Horton, Donyat, Dowlish Wake, Kingstone, Allowenshay, The Seavingtons, Stocklinch, Puckington and many others.

Due to the age demographic in the majority of these villages and due to the topography surrounding the town the vast majority of residents of these villages will never cycle and very rarely walk to Ilminster. They will universally drive and expect to park. Many town residents will currently walk although heavy shopping will often suggest the car.

Clearly the majority of heavy shoppers, ie supermarket shoppers, with many bags will use the Tesco car park but intermittent lighter shoppers, cafe goers, visitors to the bank, the dentist or solicitors would prefer to use 'high street parking'.

It is my contention that pedestrianisation would be extremely harmful to the commercial/retail activity of 'The High Street' of the town it will only encourage shopping at Tesco (at the expense 'The High Street') and/or encourage the use of Taunton and Yeovil. 'The High Street' is extremely fragile, the loss of a butcher, greengrocer, chemist or bank could cause irreversible decline.

Images of a car free centre, of cafes with mediterranean style outside tables, of children playing, all in Tuscan sunlight are unrealistic cliched dreams conjured up by worthy but misguided town councillors and their jargonistic planning consultants.

CHANGES TO THE INP

Any proposals to pedestrianisation should be withdrawn from the plan, or the INP itself should be withdrawn due to the lack of proper consultation on the matter of pedestrianisation which has not by any standard been made clear. The INP should not go to referendum as it stands.

1. To which proposed section or policy does your representation relate? <i>Please use a separate form for each section or policy you wish to comment on.</i>	<u>For Office Use Only</u> Ref:
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ILM 12

2. Please outline your comments below (continue on an additional sheet if necessary)

SEE ATTACHED NOTES.

3. What Changes would you suggest should be made to the Plan?
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NP SHOULD NOT GO TO REFERENDUM WITHOUT HOUSING SITES BASED ON REG 14 CONSULTATION IE EXCLUDING SHUDRICK VALLEY SITES.

Future Progress of the Neighbourhood Plan for Ilminster
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Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan 2022

Representations re Reg 16 Consultation.

ILM12

All Housing sites have been removed from the NP by ITC.

Many sites and housing allocations were put forward under Reg14 consultation leading to an overwhelming opposition particularly to Shudrick Valley sites, In response to this ITC have abrogated their duties and simply omitted all sites, passing the responsibility up to SSDC.

Clearly in this case the purpose of consultation has been ignored, and I OPPOSE the NP as it stands, unless the outcomes of the Reg 14 consultations are adopted such that housing sites are restored, excluding Shudrick Valley sites.

As it stands the NP should not go to referendum.

Consultation has been inadequate and ignored.