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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 August 2024 15:52
To: Planning - Policy
Subject: Island Planning Strategy consultation

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RE: Island Planning Strategy consultation

I have been unable to complete the consultation as I found it too complicated and long-winded.

I wanted to express my feelings on planning and development on the island, so I am writing to you to tell you what I think.

According to the census figures from 2021 the islands' population has only increased very slightly since the previous census in 2011. It has risen by a small margin of 1.5% only, which is a very low figure compared to the population increase for England which was 6.6%.

The Isle of Wight ranked 161st for total population out of 309 local authority areas in England, which is a **fall of 16 places**.

Most of the population increase is older people. There has been a decrease in the total number of people under 64 years old, which means in reality that as those older people die the islands' population will likely fall in future.

I can see no justification for the governments' plan to force us to build 1104 homes per year. Yes, we do have a shortage of affordable social housing, but there is no shortage of homes for sale, so social housing is the only type that should be built on the island.

There is plenty of housing available on the island, but most of it is unaffordable, which is nothing to do with lack of housing and everything to do with the greed of landlords, house sellers and agents.

If the government truly cared about people and wanted to do something about unaffordable housing then they should be funding the council to build social housing in **appropriate numbers, where it is needed**.

The islands' economy relies heavily on tourism. What makes it so attractive to tourists is that it is (relatively) unspoilt. They come here to get away from over-populated and over-

developed places on the mainland. Large scale development destroying our landscapes and our communities will harm our tourist economy, as well as making it an unpleasant place to live for the residents.

The country, and the world in general, is experiencing a catastrophic nature and climate emergency. More development and growth is not what **we need**. **We share this world with millions of other species who also have a right to a home. We have no right to destroy their home to make room for more of us.**

More development on the island will cause more harm to nature and put even more strain on water supplies, sewerage systems etc. It also risks damaging our Biosphere Reserve status, which is important for us and for tourism on the island.

We know from the Covid pandemic that access to the green spaces and nature is vitally important for the mental and physical health of people. **We are part of nature, so anything that is bad for nature is also bad for us.**

I am not a NIMBY. I am one of those people on the social housing waiting list.

I was born and raised on this island. I love the natural landscapes, the wildlife and the SMALL communities. That is what makes this place special.

Although I am struggling to find a home because of high prices, the last thing I want is for developers to ruin our green spaces and harm wildlife just so I can have a home. And we know that the developers won't be building homes for people like me anyway - social housing doesn't make money for them. As for Labour's plan to build on the 'grey belt', that won't happen. I know developers will continue to build on green field sites, and the island will be ruined.