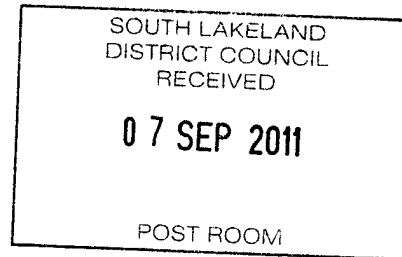


Development Plans Manager,  
South Lakeland District Council,  
Lowther Street,  
Kendal,  
LA9 4DL

## Ref SLDC General Consultation



04 September 2011

Dear Dan Hudson,

In light of Government proposals and fears expressed about them by highly respected organisations such as the National Trust and the CPRE, SLDC should take up the challenge and plan for as far ahead as possible.

It is incredible that they should contemplate reducing their time frame to ten instead of fifteen years.

Certainly it would allow a third of the land not to be put forward in their final document proposals later in the year and thereby please many residents, but it would mean that the planners lose the initiative five years earlier, and developers could run rampant and even more cherry pick their sites – to the detriment of South Lakeland, the Lake District and future generations.

SLDC would also have to start a further series of consultations/preparations very, very soon to cover the next LDF or whatever cycle/plan.

SLDC has already shown that it is far too reactive in its general approach and it now needs to be very proactive and take control of planning issues before it is too late.

Planners have another and possibly final opportunity to safeguard the interests of the community against the interests of just one of the stakeholders, namely the developers!

SLDC is an elected and responsible body, and it needs to shoulder its responsibilities more positively.

It should also ensure that it plans strategically and not merely reacts to the targets it has set itself, and which are now seen to need revising.

Development should not just take place piecemeal and automatically on the edge of existing settlements according to some statistical theory and its being the easy option.

SLDC should indeed heed public opinion. People recognise the need to build houses – at least at the lower end of the market, but it does not all need to be in somebody's back garden as a result, some would say, of convenience.

SLDC cannot win over proposed development sites. I would urge you to go for the strategic option.

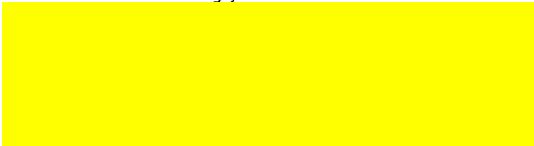
Because of complaints from the public, I suspect, it has failed to make certain communities viable, whilst with others the creaking infrastructure will not cope.

SLDC should now look additionally to establish a new settlement that could be relatively self-sufficient in terms of schools, jobs, shops, a post office etc. rather than merely add soulless housing estates on the edges of what already exists.

We live in a beautiful area, and we do not want needlessly to harm its attractiveness.

We already have 'urban' sprawl in Kendal. It is not just a matter of making it worse, it is a matter of causing the infrastructure to collapse.

Yours sincerely,

A large yellow rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

(Austen Robinson)

