

CRAG shares the concern voiced by neighbouring action group at Churchill and Langford over comments from North Somerset Council leader Don Davies about the rejection of the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP)

For the uninitiated, the JSP was an attempt by North Somerset and other West authorities, to plan housing, transport and infrastructure projects for the region over the next decade. The plan included so-called "garden villages" of almost 3,000 houses at Churchill and Banwell.

Quite rightly, government inspectors were not impressed with plans that included dumping what were effectively new towns in rural areas where there is no substantial chance of employment nor an adequate public transport system.

Back to Cllr Davies who was quoted in the local paper saying that residents of our villages should be careful what they wished for. Asked to explain his comment, Cllr Davies added that because of the likely demise of JSP, there will be pressure for more housing on the whole of North Somerset.

CRAG's view, and that of the Churchill action group, is that new commuter villages should be built close to towns which offer employment opportunities and have existing public transport links.

If North Somerset Council's adoption of the "climate emergency" policy means anything other than pious words, it has to plan so that there is least harm to the environment. Putting thousands of extra cars onto already congested rural roads is not the way forward.

John Mills