

The LOUD website “contact us” section has been busier than usual just lately, as actual plans for the mass housing developments to the east of Leighton Linlade, (Chamberlains Barn and Clipstone Park), have been made public by the developers. Correspondence consists of the usual worries such as rolling back the Green Belt, flooding and increased traffic in this compact market town of ours. We have received suggestions of holding petitions and marches, sadly we have done all that but to no avail, our elected representatives are not acting on public opinion. The only people interested in all this mass building are the developers, the district council, the town council and, strangely, the local Friends of the Earth representatives! As you may know, the core strategy for developing south Bedfordshire has had it's first public consultation recently. There was a call from the floor to throw it out, not because it is unpopular with the local residents, but because there are not enough houses for the developers!

Our biggest gripe in this Leighton-Linslade mass development process is the lack of democracy, our local elected representatives are not doing their job and acting upon public opinion, they are all for this mass development. How many times have your individual councillors consulted YOU on the future of YOUR town? Never? LOUD have written to them and even attended council meetings, but they do not reply to our questions and moreorless ignore us and anybody else against all this mass building. No wonder hardly anybody votes at local elections. THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN LEIGHTON LINSLADE DO NOT WANT THIS MASS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT. Everybody knows all we will get is more houses and, from past experience, no infrastructure. There are only so many quarts you can put in a pint pot! Leighton Linlade is the original one road town, the only way you could allow for massive housing development is to knock down our overcrowded and gridlocked town and rebuild it, and surely nobody would want that, (apart from the developers I suppose!).

Now we come to the main point of this letter, we need to put the Prime Minister's Big Society plan to the test. He says that democracy should come from the bottom up, and not to be imposed down by Government. This would allow local and national government ideas and decisions to be tested by referendum, and elected representatives who do not agree with public opinion and tow the line, may be sacked! Calling a referendum on this issue is not a unique idea to LOUD, we have seen letters from other groups opposed to this mass building suggesting referendums. Therefore we suggest that everybody opposed to this mass housing, groups and individuals, gets in touch with LOUD via www.LB-LOUD.co.uk, where WE can join forces to consolidate OUR IDEAS on the future of OUR town before it is too late!