

STATEMENT FROM ANNE HUCKLE - SOMER VALLEY ENTERPRISE ZONE

As resident of Clapton on the edge of the Enterprise Zone (EZ) and member of Ston Easton Parish council I have grave concerns with regard to the EZ.

My understanding is that there is a high probability that a distribution centre will form part of the development. In addition to EZ commuter traffic this will bring a huge increase in lorry traffic and delivery vans which is unsustainable for the local road network, including known bottle necks on the A37 at Pensford and Temple Cloud, and also in the immediate EZ area despite the proposed road improvements.

My greatest concern is for the hamlet of Clapton just a mile from the EZ. Whilst traffic surveys may have been done, they did not cover all impacted areas, nor do they reflect the reality where drivers take the most direct route to a destination. This means traffic heading to & from the EZ will drive along Clapton's unclassified lanes since they lead directly to the new roundabout which is part of the EZ road development. Recent roadworks in MSN, Chilcompton, Paulton and Radstock have proved that drivers use Langleys Lane, Greenditch Lane, and Clapton Road as rat runs to the A362 at Farrington Gurney.

Thus we in Clapton have lived with the danger of a constant stream of additional traffic along our single track lanes making walking, cycling and horse riding not pleasurable but life threateningI do not exaggerate here I promise you. Even driving to work, to medical appointments, or to the shops has proved difficult, requiring planning to ensure travel outside peak school and commuter travel times. Not something to be expected in a hamlet of around 60 homes.

BANES has created low emission zones in Bath but seems content that extra heavy traffic is directed to Midsomer Norton, Radstock, Paulton, Farrington Gurney, Clapton and other surrounding villages.

From Clapton's perspective if this ill thought out scheme proceeds BANES have a moral responsibility to consult with Somerset Highways and also to make financial provision to ensure measures are put in place that will prevent the single track Langleys Lane, Clapton Road and the centre of Clapton becoming dangerous rat runs to and from the EZ.

The Somer Valley has progressed from its industrial mining past and developed into a unique balance of working farms, green space, fields and woodland on the edges of its small communities, providing residents with a valuable green environment.

People have chosen to live in this rural area and want it to remain. Our countryside must not be torn up by BANES to create a soulless industrial park that could be anywhere in the UK, nor our villages and farmland blighted by the consequence of increased industrial and commuter traffic.

I urge you to be brave in your decision making. Do not go backwards with a soulless development, but instead maintain our heritage by supporting the development of empty property to bring jobs to the area, thus persevere both our heritage and countryside for future generations.