

## **CLLR ANN MORGAN**

### **STATEMENT TO CABINET – SOMER VALLEY ENTERPRISE ZONE**

As a new ward Councillor, I feel it's important for me to highlight my ward residents' concerns to Cabinet – particularly the concerns from Farrington Gurney, which adjoins the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone site – as well as my own concerns and hopes.

The biggest worry I am hearing from residents is that the proposals are for an outmoded development design which would increase pollution, both environmental and from traffic. Since before my election I have made it clear that I did not support the SVEZ in its original form and felt it should be RADICALLY redesigned.

My understanding is that alternative sites are unsuitable but there is great concern that this Enterprise zone, first mooted in 2007, is out of date NOW in terms of working practices and jobs.

None of us has a crystal ball of course but one thing is certain. The SVEZ in its originally presented form would have created more traffic pollution and have a detrimental effect on the very environment it is MY party's mission to protect.

I could quote you some of the statistics on land and employment etc but I'd like to take it down to the very basics - jobs, people and housing. Part of what is being proposed is that there is a need in the area for the more industrial types of employment. To balance this there is a need for housing, as seen in the Local Plan document and it's believed that those two will perfectly marry up.

Housing in the village most affected (which is Farrington Gurney) will be of such high value that any purchaser would probably have to work in Bristol or Bath to afford them. There is concern that this would increase traffic even more on already saturated arterial routes in entirely unsuitable villages.

Someone working in an industrial unit in the Enterprise Zone may struggle to afford housing locally. I imagine a 3-4 bed new build in Farrington Gurney is already expensive and 70% of expensive is still expensive.

I have read the commitments paper and welcome the change of tone to reflect that this could be a better, greener enterprise zone.

I note the commitment to ensure that active travel and public transport options would be available from the start of the development to ensure workplaces are accessible to everyone – not just those who can afford a car.

So I ask Cabinet to stay strong on these commitments. Cabinet should remain aware that residents will be paying close attention at every step. We need greener, we need better.