

Letter to South Shropshire Journal March 2012

Dear Sir

Shropshire Council is consulting on where new homes should go, including here in Ludlow (SSJ 16 March). The target for the town is a modest 245 homes, the bulk of which will be at Rock Green sprawling behind the Nelson Inn. To quote the council's document: "It is envisaged that development in this area will form the first part of a comprehensive and co-ordinated longer term 'masterplanned' growth of the town between Sheet Road and Rocks Green in line with community aspirations."

There is space between the Nelson Inn and the Eco Park for approximately 1,000 new homes. This is clearly a remarkable opportunity for Ludlow.

Many urban extensions grow in fits and starts over decades. They end up badly designed, poorly connected to the town, short of community services and lacking adequate green space.

The Ludlow urban extension should be designed as an exemplar for urban extensions everywhere. It should be built to high eco standards, following the precedents of Ludlow eco park and the social housing at Rocks Green, which it will connect together. The suburb will need community facilities, and lots of green space. It should aim to become "popular, green, planned, secure with gardens, places to play and character-full houses, not just car dominated", to quote from the Prime Minister's speech on Monday 19 March. It should be Ludlow's own garden suburb and a must-visit location for visitors to Ludlow.

For Ludlow Garden Suburb, or indeed any other sensible development to happen, we need a masterplan, even if only 200 homes are to built in the first phase. It would certainly be unwise to sign up to the Rocks Green development - rather than for new development at say, Foldgate, Ludford or on the hospital site - before we know just what Ludlow is in for over the few decades.

The proposals for Ludlow can be found online at <http://bit.ly/samdevl>.

Your sincerely

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