

**Daventry District Settlements and Countryside (Part 2) Local Plan  
Written submission from Charlotte Mackaness, resident of Boughton**

I would like to add to my original submission by making the additional points.

**Consultation/Statement Of Community Involvement**

The consultation was inadequate and was not a genuine exercise in informing local people of this extremely important plan and gathering their opinions. Although the information was in the public domain, it was only accessible to those who knew of its existence and where to find it. A sincere consultation also rests on those being consulted understanding the importance and relevance of what is being consulted on. I do not believe this was the case. As such, it can be viewed only as a box-ticking exercise with which to give a dubious rubber stamp of public approval.

Evidence of the failure of this consultation can be found in the very small number of responses from private individuals and even Parish Councils compared to those of house builders, developers and their agents, which represent the vast majority. The views of those with a vested and financial interest in development are grossly over represented compared to the residents of Daventry District (currently estimated at 80,000) who will be impacted by the Local Plan once implemented.

It was insufficient to rely on Parish Councils and third parties, such as media outlets, to make residents aware of the consultation. Not least because one could argue the scarcity of Parish Council responses suggests the importance of the Local Plan was lost on most. A consultation on this scale and significance should have been advertised via a district-wide mailing, on street furniture such as bus stops, and with exhibitions in venues and areas with a large footfall, including supermarkets and shopping centres. Crucially, the information should have been presented in plain English. This was not the case.

The validity of the conclusions that can be drawn from the consultation responses is diminished by the poor quality of the consultation process.