

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**13 October 2020**

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**Questions from Austen Espeut**

**Agenda Item 10 – Chippenham Housing Infrastructure Fund**

**To Cllr Philip Whitehead – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for  
Economic Development, MCI and Communications**

**Question 1:**

How is it possible that Chippenham is in a situation where it is to have an additional 7,500 houses built without there being any public consultation?

These aren't in the Local Plan and the next Local Plan hasn't even been prepared yet.

Even if we assume only 3 people per household, this will increase the population by 22,500 which takes it to 68,000.

An increase of 50%, equivalent to a settlement the size of Calne.

This will totally change the nature of the town and will wipe out the Bremhill Neighbourhood Plan, which has a green buffer between Chippenham and the surrounding villages.

According to transport planners, the traffic congestion in Chippenham will be significantly worse as a result of all the additional traffic, not better.

Greenhouse gas emissions will be hugely increased as a result of building houses in a place that everyone will commute in and out of.

And not only will we lose an area of outstanding natural beauty but we will destroy three county farms and high quality farmland that we will increasingly depend on as a nation for future food security.....'

**Response:**

The Cabinet report concerns a separate issue, namely the consideration of whether to enter into a Grant Determination Agreement with Homes England.

Growth at Chippenham is being considered through the separate Local Plan process