

To:
Richard Daone
BANES Local Plan, Development
Management
Bath & North East Somerset Council

From:
Camerton Parish Clerk
On behalf of Camerton Parish Council
Camertonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Date: 14 November 2025

Subject: Camerton Parish Council Comments on Local plan – Lack of Bus service, Traffic impacts from proposed housing schemes, Lack of Employment Opportunities and Business Facilities.

Dear Mr Daone,

1. Lack of Local Bus Service – Transport Inequality & Isolation

Camerton has no regular local bus service, leaving the parish effectively disconnected from the public transport network. This has several consequences that the Local Plan currently fails to recognise:

- Zero access to sustainable transport for residents without private vehicles.
- Transport disadvantage for young people, older residents, and those on lower incomes.
- Inability to meet modal-shift expectations set out in B&NES' transport and climate policies.
- Increased car dependency for essential trips such as work, education, healthcare and shopping.
- No safe, practical alternatives to private car use.

The Local Plan places significant emphasis on sustainable movement and carbon reduction, yet Camerton is structurally unable to comply with these expectations unless public transport provision is restored or alternative solutions are provided.

Requested Local Plan actions:

- Explicitly acknowledge Camerton as a settlement without public transport provision.
- Require assessments of how new development in surrounding areas will impact residents in settlements without bus services.
- Include a policy commitment to restore or support rural bus links, community transport, or demand-responsive services for parishes with no bus network.

2. Traffic Impacts from Large Nearby Housing Schemes

Major new housing allocations in the Somer Valley and surrounding areas (including Radstock, Paulton, Midsomer Norton, Timsbury and Peasedown St John) will significantly increase vehicle movements through Camerton unless specific mitigation and road infrastructure improvements are included in the Local Plan.

Key concerns:

- Camerton sits between several major settlements, making it a through-route for east-west and north-south traffic, especially along Camerton Road, Meadgate Road and Red Hill.
- Existing local roads are narrow, rural and not designed to absorb high volumes of new traffic.
- Additional vehicle movements will worsen:
 - congestion at Peak Lane,
 - speeding through village areas,
 - road safety risks at junction pinch-points,
 - noise and air-quality impacts on residents,
 - pressure on already limited rural road maintenance budgets.

If the Local Plan delivers thousands of new dwellings in the wider Somer Valley without transport investment, Camerton will experience disproportionate negative traffic impacts despite hosting no major development itself.

Requested Local Plan actions:

- Require traffic impact assessments for all major developments in neighbouring settlements to specifically model impacts on Camerton, not only the primary settlements.
- Include a commitment to improved road infrastructure or strategic traffic-management measures where Camerton is used as a through-route.
- Protect rural roads from being used as overspill routes by requiring developments to fund junction upgrades, bypass solutions, or traffic-calming measures.
- Recognise Camerton as a parish with high vulnerability to cumulative traffic impacts despite low levels of local development.

3. Lack of Employment Opportunities and Business Facilities

Camerton has very limited local employment opportunities, and the Local Plan does not acknowledge the economic imbalance faced by rural parishes such as ours.

Key issues:

- There are no significant employers within the parish and only small-scale home-based or agricultural businesses.
- Residents must travel to Midsomer Norton, Radstock, Bath, Bristol or further afield for employment—impossible without a car due to the absence of bus services.
- There is no local business hub, no shared commercial space, no rural enterprise centre, and no provision for small or micro-business growth.
- Younger residents and working-age households face reduced economic opportunity, increasing outward migration and reducing demographic balance in the parish.

- The lack of employment land pushes Camerton into becoming a dormitory settlement, contrary to sustainable-development goals.

The Local Plan focuses heavily on jobs growth within the Somer Valley, but its spatial strategy does not examine the impacts on neighbouring rural parishes where residents depend on employment in nearby settlements but must absorb the transport burden without receiving any of the economic benefits.

Requested Local Plan actions:

- Recognise Camerton as a parish with no local employment provision and no viable public transport access to employment centres.
- Ensure that nearby employment-site allocations include explicit assessment of impacts on rural parishes with car-dependent workforces.
- Consider policies supporting rural enterprise, such as:
 - micro-business workspaces
 - small start-up hubs
 - community shared office space
 - farm diversification units
- Include provision for digital infrastructure improvements (reliable broadband, mobile coverage) to support remote working and reduce forced commuting.

Summary Position

Camerton Parish Council asks that the Local Plan explicitly acknowledges:

- Camerton has no public transport services, limiting compliance with B&NES transport and climate ambitions.
- Large housing schemes in the wider area will materially increase traffic through Camerton unless mitigated.
- Lack of employment opportunities / business facilities etc

These issues must be addressed through policy wording, supporting evidence, and transport strategy commitments. Without them, the Local Plan does not adequately reflect the realities or needs of rural parishes like Camerton.

Yours sincerely,

Camerton Parish Clerk

On behalf of Camerton Parish Council