

THISTLEBERRY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Response to Inspector's questions re the Local Plan for Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire

MATTER FIVE - HOUSING SUPPLY

5.1 Probably not. It would appear that the last plan has fallen short and in the intervening 16 years it does not appear to have caught up. The process seems very slow: a site in Thistleberry was begun in 2007 and is still being built with the last section of the site being built within 80m (or less) to a closed landfill site (124 homes proposed). The overall site was unsuitable for both landfill and housing.

5.2 Don't know, but probably doubtful.

5.3 Don't know, but perhaps we should.

5.4 Don't know but doubtful.

5.5 Don't know but perhaps we should.

5.6 In the past student housing in the town has taken up several sites and it is unclear how many of the units are occupied by students. It is surely the responsibility of the University to provide student accommodation for its students. The University was once a residential campus for all students and there is sufficient land on campus for this. Nearby villages and estates house students in buy-to-lets and second homes.

5.7 (a) Don't know but probably not and particularly if the number is just to comply with the government targets set. Did the NBC fulfil its targets under the last Plan?

(b) For the first five years it might but after that it could be a struggle and could mean a deep dive into the countryside and green belt which will lead to urban sprawl and villages like Madeley, Silverdale, Keele becoming one large, urban 'conurbation'.

(c) Doubtful unless the green belt and countryside are compromised.

Dr A Drakakis-Smith

Chair

TRA

29 April 2025