

## **Paragraph 5.5.37 – Defining Countryside Gaps to coincide with SHLAA Sites and allocations**

Comments here should be read alongside **paragraph 5.5.33** – Landscape Character – as it is clear that “*Important Local Countryside Gaps*” have **all** been defined through “**post hoc rationalisation**” following the outline of several SHLAA Sites (see below). There has not been even a cursory attempt at a rational Policy AO1 and the “Teynham Area of Opportunity”. This fact may be lost in the latest version of Picture 5.5.2 (Teynham Area of Opportunity) but the “allocation site boundaries” were included in the version put forward on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to the Extraordinary Council Meeting for their approval on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 to launch the Reg 19 Consultation. The overlay of public rights of way was notified to SBC as being totally wrong.

Everything about the TAO flows from an understanding that it is defined by SHLAA offerings rather than ANY evidence of need or other justification or balanced judgement placing this proposal as an option compared, say, with the Government policy supporting ‘Garden Communities’. The whole TAO is an exercise in disguising what is a convenient “dumping ground” for 1,400 new homes in a place that KCC Highways has determined ‘couldn’t be in a worse place’!

**This is, root and branch, an exercise in opportunistic development by the Council through the back door in a thinly disguised attack on a Conservative-led Ward! I do not say this lightly (nor am I a Conservative voter) but I have listened in to many hours of Committee discussions and at every turn the Alliance Members who populated the Local Plan Panel stress how ‘evil’ the Conservatives were in the past whenever they have been challenged either in Committee or in more recent Zoom Meetings with various Parish Councils. Rather than take responsibility for their own deficiencies today! SBC are determined to cut as many corners as humanly possible.**



While arguing that the “Countryside Gaps” are a feature to “prevent coalescence”, the TAO is actually an instrument that achieves coalescence between distinct very rural communities, their relationship with each other and their southern hinterland and the pattern of development in the context of BMV land.