

Dear Sirs,

I understand that you are seeking comments regarding the proposed Community Infrastructure levy.

Rural residents generally have lower incomes than those living in urban areas. They also have less amenities and services, for which they pay a disproportionately high Council Tax. Because of the naturally small scale of rural developments the proposed levy is unlikely to yield sufficient funds to make any impact on the rural community. It is unlikely, for example, to provide regular public transport or a post office.

The cost of living in rural areas is also greater than in towns for other reasons, usually related to greater transport costs for work school and shopping. Rural residents are therefore often unable to afford local housing. The levy will not only increase the cost of a rural house but make it cost £4000 more than the equivalent urban property. Where is the logic in this proposal?

It would be a more just system if the Levy was not applied to rural developments but was increased for Urban schemes, where the scale would yield more significant sums, and that this money was used to help re-balance the inequitable facilities received by rural residents.

Yours, faithfully,

Preedy