Dunkerton and Tunley – Schools and Education Infrastructure Response to Chapter 5 Rural Areas

This response is submitted on behalf of parishioners in the Dunkerton and Tunley area. The principal concern is the potential effect of substantial housing growth in neighbouring settlements on local children and families, particularly the availability of school places and SEND provision, the length and safety of school journeys, and increased traffic on local roads. Children from Dunkerton and Tunley may have to travel further, face more congested routes, or compete for places in schools serving a wider catchment.

The Local Plan should demonstrate that children in Dunkerton and Tunley will continue to have reasonable access to suitable school places and SEND provision without longer journeys, increased road danger or additional pressure on families.

The Parish Council asks B&NES to show clearly:

- which primary and secondary schools children from Dunkerton and Tunley are expected to use;
- whether those schools will have sufficient places once neighbouring developments are occupied;
- whether children may need to travel further because of increased demand;
- how additional school traffic will affect the A367, B3115 and local rural roads;
- what safe and reliable school transport will be provided where walking or cycling is not realistic.

The Parish Council considers that new housing should not proceed ahead of confirmed school capacity. Where additional places, school expansion or transport provision are needed, these should be secured before demand arises.