

From:
To: [Developmentmanagement](#)
Subject: 16/07288/OUT
Date: 13 September 2016 21:02:27

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed application for a further 80 dwellings on the land south of Filands, Malmesbury.

As you are no doubt aware, local people spent a great deal of time and care developing the **Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan**. This plan recognises that further homes are required in the town and a robust and systematic options appraisal was carried out for all the potential development sites. The **MNP** plan was widely consulted on and was democratically approved by the people of the town. It has subsequently been adopted as part of Wiltshire's Development Plan.

The site proposed is not included in the plan and would mean an increase of 80 dwellings to a plan that already provides more new homes than have been set for Malmesbury by the Wiltshire Core Strategy. The numbers and sites contained in the plan allow for a careful balance that does not compromise the infrastructure of the town but recognises the need for growth.

The application includes the 'Statement of Community Engagement' some of the contents of which are at best naive, at worst, disingenuous. It states, "meaningful engagement with neighbourhoods... is essential". This is in complete contrast to the disregard for the Neighbourhood Plan. It also appears to justify the development by stating, "the town has grown incrementally throughout its history". The 180 houses already being built at Filands View (not part of the Neighbourhood Plan) and the 80 houses proposed in this application (not part of the Neighbourhood Plan) can in no way be described as incremental growth. Finally- the document seems to imply that the comments from those people who do not live adjacent to the proposed site are somehow irrelevant. Badly planned, inappropriate development affects ALL residents of a town and the surrounding villages.

I, like many other residents of the town want to see new homes built for existing families who need housing, as well as for new families who will bring growth and contribute to healthy change. However, this process needs to be dictated by sensible consideration (as demonstrated by the Neighbourhood Plan) and not opportunist applications such as this one.

The proposed application is contrary to local democracy as supported and encouraged by central government and for this and the reasons outlined above, I object to the proposal.

Sarah Wilde

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