

Malcolm Carter

From: Sarah Powell <sarah.powell.sk@gmail.com>
Sent: 07 November 2015 10:54
To: coordinator@ashtonkeynesneighbourhood.com
Cc: Muriel
Subject: Comments on Ashton Keynes Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Consultation

Please find below the comments from Somerford Keynes Parish Council on the pre-submission consultation for your Neighbourhood Plan:

Thank you for inviting Somerford Keynes Parish Council to the consultations on the pre-submission version of your Neighbourhood Plan. It was very encouraging to see a lot of commonality between your plan and our emerging neighbourhood plan with regard to infrastructure, green spaces, access and the environment.

However, we would like to make known our concerns about the housing allocations for the former Cotswold Community site. Like you, we recognise that this site, being a rural brownfield site with 27 existing dwellings, is a special case in planning terms. We support your aim to restrict development to within the brownfield boundary, but we are concerned that 75 houses in total does not constitute a sustainable site nor increase the sustainability of neighbouring villages, in particular the nearest village to the site, Somerford Keynes. We believe that for the site to be viable with only 75 houses they will be executive homes, which is contrary to the lower-cost housing aim in our emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

Whilst we agree that the number of proposed houses on the site should be limited, and it is a fine balance, we believe that a number between 100 and 150 would ensure that there is a better mix of housing types and that the site could offer potential benefits to the neighbouring villages in terms of a completed cycle way to North End crossroads, transport, sports facilities and open communal spaces and business units. These are matters that could be addressed as part of the planning process, particularly if included within your Neighbourhood Plan as aspirations rather than policies, and which we would be happy to discuss further with you.

Sarah Powell
Chair
Somerford Keynes Parish Council