

Malcolm Carter

From: Barbara <iambarbaramartin@gmail.com>
Sent: 05 November 2015 13:18
To: coordinator@ashtonkeynesneighbourhood.com
Subject: Neighbourhood plan

Dear Coordinator,

As the Neighbourhood Plan reaches the final date for comments and submissions, I give it my full support. I commend it as a comprehensive and excellent evaluation of issues affecting the village. There has been consultation at every stage of its development and it can therefore be relied on as a valid representation of villagers' views and opinions. It has my full support with the exception of P5 (see below)

HOWEVER, the last minute, mischievous and surreptitious attempt by the Partridge developer, who has a development option on Dairy Farm Field (aka Mill Field, Taylor's Field) to have this land included in the plan as suitable for housing development is something I OPPOSE most strongly on the following grounds

INP 2 - Road Safety

- the B4696 is by any measure a dangerous road high numbers of heavy lorries, high volumes of commuter traffic, a rat run between the M4 & M5 especially at morning and evening rush hours, all crammed onto a narrow road with no pavements, no verges for vehicular or pedestrians escape and with curves, blind bends, many of the most treacherous of these on the stretch of road at the Gosditch junction.
- the exit / entrance to Gosditch is at a very acute angle which requires care to negotiate.

In the past, there has been consistent rejection of planning permissions for anything requiring access onto the B4696. This policy shows good old fashioned COMMON SENSE.

- a development of houses, with the attendant increase in traffic and pedestrian movements would be insane.

- Access to the village from the development.

By car . . difficulties already described but additionally more traffic in Gosditch . just 'going to the shop' etc
As pedestrians either onto Gosditch or via Church Walk and onto the High Road. Neither Gosditch nor the High Road are suitable for increased foot traffic (no pavements or the possibility of having pavements)
- the elderly, mothers with push chairs, unaccompanied children all at risk when to quote the proposal 'having easy access to village facilities' clearly this is not so.

HCP1 / ECP5 - Local Character and Recreation and Tourism

- the eastern approach to the village along the Thames path and on into Thames Walk, surely the most iconic approach to the village for walkers & tourists, would be degraded, wrecked,
- the space is extremely well used and popular with walkers accessing the pathways and waterside amenities of the Copse and lakes west of the B4696, it is probably the most used open space in the village for recreational walking.
- issues of biodiversity, ecology and species protection have been addressed elsewhere in your feedback I won't repeat and drown out the message by repeating them here.

ENP 3 - Water

- the field acts as a reservoir, barrier, water storage reserve, buffer for the village which is down stream from the field. "Paving Paradise" however sensitively the flooding issues are addressed, is a serious cause for concern.

PARKING AT P5

Despite unreservedly supporting the Neighbourhood Plan I cannot support the notion of Parking at P5.

- I refer to my comments above with respect to access onto the B4696. A car park for school drop off in this location is subject to the same issues, and additionally with the extra traffic movements onto and off the road happening at exactly the time that road is at its busiest.

- human behaviour being what it is, and long experience of the Gosditch parking issues, it is highly unlikely that a car park at P5 would actually be used in the way that is visualised in any case.

One of the main planks of Partridge's attempt to get the Mill Field designated suitable for housing has been to ease the issue of parking and drop off at the school in Gosditch by creating a car park and drop off zone to the rear of Pebble Lodge and Drummond House.

The assumption that the situation in Gosditch would be eased by the addition of houses, extra traffic movements and exit re-entry manoeuvres onto the B4696, even with a drop off zone, is transparently misguided.

Barbara Martin

Pebble Lodge

Gosditch=