

6482

25 July 2012

Dear Sir

I am writing to you to lodge my objection to the proposed development on the green belt land at Old Milverton.

I have been a resident within the Warwick District Council area for over 43 years and can see, and appreciate, the need for growth and development within the region.

What I cannot see is the need to develop green belt land to the north of Leamington especially where more suitable areas, previously identified by the Council, already exist to the south.

I wish to make my objection on a number of grounds, not least of which is the proposed destruction of the previously mentioned green belt land. Access to rural areas and amenities is already restricted and the destruction of more green belt for a large scale housing development such as the council proposes can only lead to further restriction. The fact that public footpaths, through what are now rural areas, would lead through large urban developments, only goes to show the lack of forethought put into the proposals.

Non-green belt land, prime and approved for development by the Council, already exists to the south of Leamington. Without any given pressing need to develop to the north, why are the non-green belt sites not being developed first?

What proof does the Council have that there is a need for such a large development to the north of Leamington, and if there is a housing shortage within the Warwick District Council area, what alternatives have been sought other than expensive long-term development projects?

Have empty buildings and residential plots within the town confines all been brought back into the property pool already? Have existing sites been developed to their full potential? Good use of our existing housing pool is far more beneficial to the community as a whole than extensive development, making use of resources within walking distance of amenities rather than large scale developments on the periphery of the existing urban footprint.

I also object to these proposals on the grounds that existing amenities in the area are insufficient to cope with such a development. As well as the obvious traffic increase, both vehicular and pedestrian, there is the question of access routes. The narrow Old Milverton Lane would be unable to cope and any expansion would have a natural environmental impact. Kenilworth Road is already a "fast road" with the obvious dangers of putting extra junctions on to it. This leads to placing access roads through what, at the moment, are quiet residential areas. The development size of 810 houses means a vehicular increase of

between 800-1,600 cars a day entering the development through sites not designated for such access.

Public transport links in this area are already woefully inadequate and in these times of austerity and public spending cuts I find it hard to believe that the Council will provide transport links of a sufficient level to entice people out of using private modes of transport.

I would also like to mention the proposed development would impact upon the allotments and the loss of such facilities would be unthinkable for a number of people. Varying social groups from a wide range of backgrounds make use of these facilities and their destruction for more unnecessary housing is pointless, more than merely puzzling.

Although not directly affected by it, I do feel that such large scale developments would have a massive negative impact upon local schooling in the area with a complete lack of thought by those concerned about the long term impact.

To summarise, I feel that this proposed development should be blocked for a number of reasons; the destruction of green belt land where alternatives exist, the actual housing demand does not exist for such a development, the facilities and amenities to support it do not exist, the removal of existing facilities and amenities for the community appear to have been overlooked, if not ignored, by those behind the proposal.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.

Kathleen Kelly