

For the attention of **Ms Caroline Harvey**
The Planning Inspectorate, Room C Eagle,
3rd Floor Temple Quay House, 2 The Square,
Bristol, **BS1 6PN**

Ref: **APP/C3105/W/W23/3329834 4th December 2023**

Dear Ms Harvey,

I write as a former Chairman of Sibford Gower Parish Council.

Over the last few decades, both Sibford villages have suffered a constant probing encroachment of developers moving in on the two Sibford villages on the basis that they were originally incorrectly identified as a single Category A village: a decision that provided a loophole that led to the present impasse.

In Cherwell District Council's now published Local Plan, that categorisation is to be rescinded, and the decision by the Council not to allow the application reflects their acknowledgement of the fact that the two villages are already an entirely unsustainable location for further development and has been ever since the two villages were wrongly identified.

I particularly wanted to say I shouldn't have to write this letter. The District council's decision should not have to be dragged through these costly and time-consuming procedures simply to uphold a decision they have reached after long and careful consideration of all the factors involved. It brings the standing of the Council into disrepute, which is in no-one's interest.

The two villages have few services and facilities between them, and the appeal drawn up by Chadwick Town Planning Limited ('CTPL') on behalf of the Sibfords Action Group - with which I agree entirely - threatens to overwhelm them. As the representation of CTPL makes very clear, an additional five homes at the appeal site, just on its own will take new development in this locality alone up to 30.

As it is, the expansion of the Deanfield Heights developments on Hook Norton Road - which the District Council also originally opposed before they were overwhelmed by the pressures placed on them by the developers involved - is inevitably now going to entirely compromise the ability of the local councils of the two villages to manage even the anticipated influx of private cars in what is a single, narrow, and in places extremely steep country lane that is already hardly able to carry the constant flow of local traffic, for which there are no alternative routes in or out of either village. They cannot be understood, either singly or together to be sustainable.

I wholeheartedly support the District Council's original decision and urge you to dismiss what can only properly be understood as cynical appeal with no merit, and potentially highly negative consequences.

Hugh Pidgeon