

**Bourtons' Parish Council presentation for the Inspector's Inquiry
App/C3105/W/24/3338211**

4th June 2024

Vistry Application 23/00853/OUT

Land East Of Warwick Road Drayton Warwick Road Banbury

Outline application for up to 170 dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated open space and vehicular access off Warwick Road, Banbury; All matters reserved except for access

Good Morning Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen - I'm Sue Upton and thank you for allowing me to speak as Chairman of Bourtons' Parish Council

You may wonder why we in the Bourtons' Parish feel that it's imperative for us to speak today. We are a stone's throw from Hanwell and have been working alongside them to protect this remaining green space between them and Banbury. Because of our involvement, we know that in the last 5 years 1,844 homes have already been developed on the Hanwell side of Banbury with a further 36 currently under construction and another 488 have been approved and yet to be built. So 2,368 in all.

We are perfectly well aware that new houses are needed although we - and we suspect that CDC - do not have an exact figure of how many more houses we need, but we believe that the government's requirement of a 5 year housing supply is well covered for our area. Like many other parishes in the UK, we may be forgiven for thinking that we shall only know that we have enough housing when the developers struggle to sell them. Who knows what the ultimate figure will be, for a super saturated housing development programme in Cherwell.

Our primary concern is that if a parish such as Hanwell, with all its historic assets, cannot prevent such a development as this, we have no chance whatsoever of preventing development from our own parish, namely the village of Little Bourton, to join with Banbury.

We are acutely aware that the local infrastructure is inadequate to say the least. Our parishes, north of Banbury, have such limited transport links and very few, if any, amenities, we cannot be described as sustainable at all.

Local schools are already reporting that children are arriving late to class because of the transport and traffic problems: residents are reporting that it's difficult to get a doctor's appointment and almost impossible to get a dentist's appointment.

Aside of the practical difficulties, many of the proposed development sites are not - and never have been included in the CDC local plans for development – this proposed development site certainly has not been.

If this application is approved, it will cast a very long shadow over the future of Hanwell and neighbouring parishes.

In the past, parish councils have been accused of taking a very short term view on planning issues, I can tell you that this is not the case now. We are diligent in our research about local policies and protective in our aim to keep our parishes separate from the urban sprawl of Banbury.

Rural parishes are precious, they uphold the very essence of the English countryside and all therein and to ignore this inheritance and this uniqueness would in our view, be folly indeed.

What we do now in terms of housing development, impacts severely on our communities; our children and our children's children for evermore and where it is inappropriate and eliminates the distinction between our rural villages and towns – we must resist the opportunist developers who seek to achieve their business plans and revenues to meet their targets but have no credible concern for what they will leave behind them.

Of course everyone needs a home, a safe place where they can live and raise their families but there are very many brown field opportunities for CDC to develop, which should be the priority.

We would ask then Sir, most respectfully, that you do not approve the development on this valuable agricultural land and last green space in Hanwell, since if it is approved, we shall lose all hope of protecting our parishes in the future.

Thank you.