

I oppose this planning PIP application for the following reasons.

The Bishop's Blaize pub and car park are situated on the south side of what was a very ancient earthwork, older than either of the Sibfords. It made a natural division/space between the two Sibfords. Sadly, the council did not consider the earthwork some 50-60 years ago when they allowed four bungalows to be built on the north side of the earthwork. These, however, are unobtrusive. Such an old earthwork is part of England's heritage and history, not to be lost as so much is being lost under concrete of our beautiful countryside. It is as if England's planners want to obliterate what was England altogether.

This proposed build will be an eyesore. Driving from a southerly approach to Sibford Gower, it has a true village appearance, the houses settled above the steep hillside. Put 3-7 houses on to it and they will look like a carbuncle – quite out of keeping and out of place – hideous in fact.

Burdrop has only a single-track round it, no pavements for pedestrians or children walking to school. Where is the access for building on this proposed site? At present there is only a normal gateway to the car park. Where is the access for building, earth removing equipment, lorries carrying stone, concrete mixes etc? There is nowhere to turn other than on the proposed site itself. Outside of this the Burdrop lanes will be destroyed. Where are the amenities, water, sewage, electrics etc? These are already stretched to the limit in the village.

How stable is the land supporting these proposed 3-7 properties? The bank behind the Bishop's Blaize is very steep. There are natural springs in this bank. There is a land fault in the area. It would need a very good land survey to make sure building was safe.

What are these houses for? Selling, holiday lets, second homes, reasonably priced for young people from the village to purchase? All but the last of these we do not need. There are already 25 new properties just built and permission for a further 5 houses granted in Sibford Ferris.

The roads throughout the villages are narrow. Most have no pavement, with some having pavement on one side only. At the 3-way junction from Sibford to Burdrop and the Ferris there is also no pavement. It is now very dangerous – add a potential 14 cars from this proposed development to 50 cars from the Hook Norton Road development and you have accidents waiting to happen – again no pavements. Children as young as 3 years old are walking this way to school. The 20 mph signs that have suddenly sprouted throughout the village might as well be taken up as traffic is ignoring them. Who is enforcing them?

The Bishop's Blaize has been a hostelry since the 17th century. It was a vibrant pub catering for all age groups. Villagers met there to discuss ideas and plans. The pub played a full part in the village providing snacks, meals and cricket club teas. It donated to events regularly. It helped out with the luncheon club and over 60's club when the extensions to the village hall were on going. It had a lovely welcoming atmosphere and it was stolen from the village. Oh to turn the clock back!

In summary, I object for these reasons:

1. The landscape eyesore
2. The possible instability to the land
3. The lack of need for these houses (building for the sake of building for filthy lucre)
4. No access to building site
5. Roads/traffic – danger to young and old, high accident risk
6. Anybody coming to live here needs a car as there is no bus service to be relied on and there is no work