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From: planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk <planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 October 2019 22:24

To: Planning <Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>

Subject: New comments for application 19/01705/OUT

New comments have been received for application 19/01705/OUT at site address: Land Adjoining And West Of Bloxham Recreation Ground South Newington Road Bloxham

from Mary Groves

Address:

Keremma, Barford Road, Bloxham, Banbury, OX15 4EZ

Comment type:

Objection

Comments:

There are numerous reasons to reject this application which include:

1. The position of the exit from the development onto the A361 will certainly increase the number of accidents, which already occur notoriously on an alarmingly frequent basis. In addition, any journey through the village towards Banbury must include the mini roundabout - NPPF 108(c) states that any significant impacts from new developments regarding safety should be cost effectively mitigated. However, OCC has already confirmed that there is no capacity to improve safety on the mini-roundabout. Contributions from developers cannot improve the situation as has been proved in the past.
2. Footpaths in Bloxham along the A361 which lead to the pubs, the shops and the Warriner School are inadequate and cannot be widened. In particular, the main pedestrian route along the A361 to the shops and school requires pedestrians to cross the road and walk alongside a house on a very narrow footpath with only safe room for one pedestrian at a time. I have witnessed many near accidents involving tall people who have to duck when lorries pass with overhanging wing mirrors, and school children who are naturally socialising and reluctant to walk in single file. This problem cannot be rectified - unless old beautiful houses are demolished in the process. It is essential that the decision makers experience this footpath during rush hour as accidents are totally foreseeable and there is a serious issue concerning accountability.
3. Flooding is a serious problem in Bloxham. We experienced torrential rain in 2012, before the Wellington Park development on the Barford Road and the Weavers Field development on the Milton Road were built. The following is an extract from the Oxford Mail newspaper on 22nd November 2012 the last time there was excessive, continuous torrential rain in Bloxham. "Yesterday there were 10 flood alerts across the county warning residents that flooding was possible, and one flood warning indicating that homes in the Bloxham area were expected to flood." There have already been problems with flooding on at least one estate built after the above event. Even though it has not yet been tested by the level of rain we had in 2012, remedial work had to be undertaken on the Barford Road and on the new Wellington Park estate - unforgivable given the local knowledge which had been provided to the planning authorities and Gladman concerning this issue. With regard to this proposal we need to learn from the mistakes of the past - a further development in a field which is already known to flood would be contrary to BL7.
4. If road safety and the threat of additional serious flooding are not good reasons to reject this application, then it should also be pointed out that there is no shortage of housing in Bloxham or along the A361. Additional houses are being built on the outskirts of Banbury at the so-called Bloxham Vale and also in the villages of Milcombe and Adderbury. Within my knowledge

established houses within Bloxham have been taken off the current market as there have been no serious buyers. Cherwell already has a five year plan in place including 750 homes required in category A villages of which Bloxham is one. (Cherwell Local Plan Part 1: Policy villages 2)
5. BL 9 states that any effects of extra traffic from the new development should be mitigated and also that there should be sufficient primary school places within the village. Bloxham Primary School is already at capacity and issues regarding traffic are serious as addressed above.

Case Officer:
Samantha Taylor

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