

Weavers Cottage,
2 Queen Street,
Bloxham,
Banbury,
OX15 4QQ
5th October 2019

Dear Ms. Taylor,

We are writing to object in the strongest possible terms the development proposed by Gladmans to build 95 new houses at Bloxham Ref: 19/01705/OUT.

When Cameron's government first implemented the 'Neighbourhood Plan' the slogan was 'your community your choice'. Bloxham's Neighbourhood Plan took many hundreds of man hours to complete - it is to this document that we cite many of our objections.

- a) It is outside the built up limits of the village.
- b) 95 houses equate to approximately 190 more cars driving through the already heavily congested village of Bloxham (NPPF84 & BL9) and if the development of 40 new homes in Milcombe is achieved that is likely to mean another 80 cars through Bloxham (210 altogether). Air pollution is already a problem for the village (as is congestion) with the large numbers of lorries and other vehicles travelling through it.
- c) The proposed 'T' junction onto the A361 would surely constitute a dangerous junction on an already dangerous road with a record of the A361 being a road with a significant risk of accidents (NPPF 108) (We hear the sirens almost every day)
- d) NPPF 94 states that a sufficient number of school places should be available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Bloxham Primary school is already full with no more space for expansion. Having to transport children to outlying schools results in yet more pollution and carbon emissions. Also from my experience of being a teacher in a local Primary School - transporting children away from their local community often has adverse effects on their wellbeing.
- e) The services in the village will also become increasingly compromised - I had to wait 30 days for a nurses appointment at the local surgery 95 more families will worsen this and other services.
- f) Bloxham was a small Hornton stone village - it is sadly now becoming a sprawling satellite area and surrounding the recreation ground with houses on the only entrance to the village that has no large housing estates would cause undue visual intrusion into the open countryside and

be inconsistent with the local character of the village which has many listed buildings. (ESD13)

- g) Bloxham is indeed very fortunate to have its own Nature Reserve. This is a vital oasis and needs the surrounding open countryside to make the habitat sustainable. There is already a problem with flooding in that area, if the development goes ahead it may mean that the Slade becomes too wet and result in a loss of habitat (The State of Nature Report says that more than a quarter of our mammals are threatened with extinction as well as many other plants and animals). Keeping small areas of protection for our dwindling countryside are imperative to help preserve our wildlife. Walking in open spaces and communing with nature are becoming more important for the mental health and wellbeing of people - it is therefore really important to maintain the 'health' of the Nature reserve and not allow it to be compromised for 95 new homes that Bloxham does not need and not want. (NPPF para. 174 & ESD10)

Yours sincerely,

Dr. CBJ & Mrs. AEM Cody