

STEEPLE ASTON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Parish Clerk, Westfield Farm Cottage, Fenway, Steeple Aston OX25 4SE

FAO Bob Neville, Senior Planning Officer
General Developments Planning Team
Cherwell District Council

3rd March 2020

Dear Mr. Neville,

Application 19/02948/F

Steeple Aston Parish Council wishes to confirm its support for the housing scheme proposed by Rectory Homes, in the form of application 19/02948/F which we understand is to be decided by the Planning Committee on March 12th 2020.

The scheme has been the subject of numerous discussions between Rectory Homes and the Parish over two years, and the applicants have modified it several times in line with the recommendations we have made in response to earlier applications. The applicants have been exemplary in their wish to work with the parish and in listening to and then responding to comments made and concerns expressed.

It is our firm view that the 10 dwellings currently proposed for this site represent the correct scale of development for this sensitive edge of village site. We understand that CDC officers propose to refuse the application primarily on the grounds that the density of the scheme is lower than the Cherwell standard. In our view, that standard is not appropriate for this rural location, adjacent to a Conservation Area, and we would actively oppose a scheme of higher density.

We are also satisfied that the housing mix is now appropriate for the village, although an earlier version of the scheme was not. The current mix, with its emphasis on 3-bed dwellings, will meet the needs of local people.

Finally, we are pleased that a number of detailed changes were made to the appearance of the scheme following our submission, and that particular concerns regarding road safety have been carefully addressed.

We urge the Committee to approve the application.

Steeple Aston Parish Council