

Comment for planning application 21/00922/OUT

Application Number	21/00922/OUT
Location	Land West Of Foxden Way Great Bourton OX17 1QY
Proposal	OUTLINE Planning Application with all matters reserved save for access for up to 9 First Homes
Case Officer	James Kirkham
Organisation Name	will lombard
Address	Fernhill,Claridge Gardens,Great Bourton,Banbury,OX17 1FJ
Type of Comment	Comment
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>As the owner of the field and a resident of Great Bourton, I respect all of those comments by the local residents however there is one point that I think needs to be clarified. Many residents have asked why this field cannot be protected or gifted to the village. As many residents will not be aware of the earlier discussions I wanted to set the record straight as it was always my intention to gift this field and the field to the north to the Parish Council as I intended to move to the village and wanted to give something to the village. In fact the original masterplans showed all of this land as a community orchard (2.5 acres). Both this field and the field to the north were offered to the Parish Council free of charge in 2019 alongside the original application for 3 homes. We wanted to give this field to the village and we offered to either plant the field as a community orchard or to layout a playing field with a football pitch which could be shared by residents from Little Bourton and Great Bourton. We suggested the field could be owned and used by the village for fetes and for events such as bonfire night. There was never any obligations attached to the gift of the land which was emphasised and reinforced to the Parish Council on numerous occasions. The response from the Parish Council was "the ongoing maintenance of such an orchard would be financially significant, and the Council agreed that it was not one that it wished to take on, even though the concept of such an Orchard was attractive." The community orchard formed part of the original application until I was told to remove it by the Clerk of the Parish Council before the site went to Planning Committee. I feel it is important to make this point clear as a lot has been said about how we have no regard for the village or the community which is fundamentally incorrect and unfounded. We have delivered a number of community orchards, nature spaces and wildflower planting as part of our previous projects and they have always been well received and been a great addition to the villages we have worked in. This was the first and only time in my experience that such an offer was not welcome and not even aired to the community for their thoughts. I can only imagine, had the Parish Council actually engaged with the residents of the Bourtons and asked for their opinion then this field would now be well on the way to becoming an established community orchard for residents and dog walkers to enjoy. I do not wish to interfere with the consultation however I feel it is an important point to make as many residents are understandably making presumptions without having knowledge of the original discussions we had with the Parish Council.</p>
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Attachments	