

Comment for planning application 21/04271/F

Application Number	21/04271/F
Location	Land South of Faraday House Woodway Road Sibford Ferris
Proposal	Erection of 6 one storey age restricted dwellings (55 years) for older people with access, landscaping and associated infrastructure
Case Officer	Wayne Campbell

Organisation Name	Joanna Huckvale
Address	2 Mannings Close, Sibford Ferris, Banbury, OX15 5RA

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

A 'Development' by Blue Cedar Homes will be a very, very serious loss of pleasurable vision for us in the village. It is already creating serious distress among our population especially on the back of the covid catastrophe. That includes myself and probably most of the people in the village who actually 'live' here. The extra stress all this building will take on the wild animal population too should not be discounted either because that area is full of ancient animal paths. Our village is full of wildlife enthusiasts who do not want to see the 'proper' countryside they are used to manicured into bland unproductiveness and urbanised. I should like to remind the council that with the now recognised threat of serious Global Warming we all have a part to play in maintaining viable habitats for wildlife and that includes old hedgerows and trees which Woodway Road and the Hook Norton Road have in place already and which, in no way, should be threatened by developers and bulldozers which is what I know through experience often happens to trees that are considered to be 'blocking access'. With regard to the value of these trees and hedgerows, I recall, there was a particular occupant of a house on Woodway who was responsible for the continuing growth of all of the young trees along this road because her agricultural knowledge and resolute banding of them each year protected them when hedge-cutters were out. Now you know about this particular legacy of hers, you may perhaps appreciate more fully how past and present occupants of this village have given their energy to this area and cared about its future. It is the 'Spirit of the Place' that needs to be part of your decision as to whether to grant planning or not. The proposed site is not just any field that can be cut to pieces. It, and its now, once beautiful bulldozed neighbour, are where the fieldfares come in winter, the seagulls and the rooks, and a crop is grown most years. Nature already has a home here and it thrives and as we walkers go, seemingly, right past, but something in our subliminal minds stays or stayed alive in us too. This is the mental health aspect of all public decisions that should now be given equal if not greater priority than the profits of a development company who neither sees nor hears the village history and nature, or gives too little regard to the nation's needs. Woodway Road, which you should regard as just a simple country lane, is an almost indescribably valuable asset to people, dog walkers, horse riders, goat cart and cyclists in the village. A number of agricultural vehicles, cars and motorbikes use it too. - As an elderly person myself, I appreciate there being a level walk from my house at the top of Mannings Hill that enables me to access this peaceful countryside and wonderful view. However, going the opposite way up to the usually overparked shop/post office might put off other elderly with the constant traffic bottlenecks, and narrow or non-existent footpaths along this stretch. The best thing about Woodway Road travelling south, is that three quarters of the way along is a public seat which looks across to Broadway Tower. It is a retreat, which I like to call 'The Office' (because it is the very opposite of a place of stress) but this peace is already under threat from the new development that somehow, surprisingly, 'procured' double the number of originally proposed houses. If the same happens with this new development this will be a really sad thing for the people who own the houses in the close which will end up at the back of it. They will lose an appreciable lump (and financial value as well) of their view and end up just overlooking backyards and visually eye poking rooftops instead. I object to this happening for them as I know what it feels like from past massive encroachments on the rural village in which I grew up. It leaves you feeling as if something has been torn away and even when you move away, you can feel like a refugee from such destruction for your whole life. It damages the soul to see countryside ripped up, perhaps for so called homes that most elderly could never afford to buy anyway, and which are so unsuitably placed for the one village amenity, the shop, to which they could walk. Please think again before you allow such a horror on the Ferris in which I have now lived in for over twenty years. I would like to say something else with regard to the southerly and western

aspect of Woodway Road. Not only do you have an incredible daytime view, but on a clear, dark night it works very well as a 'Dark Sky Site'. I have enjoyed visits there in the past with my astronomer son, and it is potentially a really good place for those who might wish to go out at night, either to catch the International Space Station passing overhead, or currently, to join in the national count of the Stars in the Constellation of Orion. You cannot do this in the main Ferris village so easily because the streetlights and domestic lights affect the dark adaption of the eyes, car headlights being bad enough, so any new, and for our village, too excessive conglomerations of new-builds will undoubtedly bring light pollution and increased noise. As a final note, maybe the immediate and close presence of fields that grow rotational crops, some of which can spark asthma, should mitigate against the granting of planning permission. - I tend to avoid oilseed rape in full flower, so if a breathing compromised elderly person could react to that that aspect of the environment, they may not also like the fact that the prevailing south westerlies and winds from the North often make that area of the village, which is basically a hilltop continuing as a plateau along from Mannings Hill above the Sib Valley, a very cold place indeed, and I am not making this up even in early summer, to walk there can be quite painful to the ears with even a small breeze. My friend from the US who scoffed at taking a head cover on our walk there was pleased when I pulled an extra one from my pocket for her to use! Thus, I really would go so far as to say that this is absolutely 'not' the ideal environment to place homes for the elderly. The old saying of 'Stow on the Wold, Where the wind blows cold' is really no exaggeration and applies just as much here because Sibford Ferris is geographically not far from there. - I consider that someone really should have been available to advise Blue Cedar that despite the beauty of the view, prevailing weather conditions make this a complete 'no no' for the old who will not be sitting in some lovely gentile garden sipping tea, but taking refuge inside, from the cold breeze as well as the smell and squeaking of the sewage works a short distance away. - I thus agree with all of the objections that 'this is a poorly conceived scheme on an unsuitable site in an unsustainable location.' Council, please, please, please refuse and protect that space.

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Attachments