

The Old Post Office,
Sibford Gower,
Banbury,
Oxfordshire OX15 5RT.
22nd. January 2020

Planning and Affordable Housing Policy, Cherwell District Council.
Proposed Building of 6 retirement homes in Sibford Ferris.

Dear Sir,

When we purchased our home in Sibford Gower in 1972, we wanted to live in the countryside or a small village, not a large village or a small town. We found Sibford Gower a special country village for a number of reasons, including that the access was along country lanes not a main road, that it was a very silent village and that it had no street lighting. It is very hard to find such a village.

The twenty-five houses currently being built in Sibford Ferris will affect Sibford Gower. Another six for people over fifty-five years of age will only add to the pressure.

Please refuse this extra development.

The villages of Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower are approached by narrow country lanes, which are badly maintained and not adequate for increased traffic. They join a B Class road, which is narrow with sharp bends. Since living in Sibford Gower we have been snowed in on a number of occasions. Extra development will only add to the serious parking problems we already experience, which also seriously affects the bus service and local farmers.

People now have to work for longer and currently have to leave the villages of Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower, some travelling many miles to go to work. The extra traffic has and will add to the pollution level, which we are being asked to reduce. It will also add to the noise level and no doubt extra accidents.

There is a lack of public transport, which is inadequate for extra retirement homes. At Highlands between Tadmerton and Bloxham, which is not far from our villages, there is already an established development of properties for people over fifty-five years of age. At Chipping Norton, which is not far away, there are several established properties offering a variety of different accommodation, for people over fifty-five years of age, with shops restaurants and a theatre nearby.

The increased extra light pollution will also affect Sibford Gower and the surrounding countryside. The countryside between Banbury and Brailes is on the edge of the Cotswolds and is spectacular. This area should be valued and protected for its beauty for future generations to enjoy. It is also an area of rich historic interest.

Yours faithfully,

