

Comment for planning application 23/00173/OUT

Application Number	23/00173/OUT
Location	Land South Of Green Lane Chesterton
Proposal	Outline planning application for up to 147 homes, public open space, flexible recreational playing field area and sports pitches with associated car parking, alongside landscaping, ecological enhancements, SuDs, green/blue and hard infrastructure, with vehicular and pedestrian/cycle accesses, and all associated works (all matters reserved except for means of access)
Case Officer	Andrew Thompson
Organisation Name	
Name	Janet Wardell
Address	6 Banks Furlong, Chesterton, Bicester, OX26 1UG
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I wish to object in the strongest possible terms against this totally unsustainable application to increase the size of the village of Chesterton by one-third. This surely flies in the face of the CDC Local Plan which states that any residential development should be minor, infilling, or conversions. I would suggest 147 new homes is definitely not minor in this context. Chesterton is unsupported by many services and facilities; there is no bus service, so everyone is reliant on the car. Walking and cycling feels increasingly dangerous as the amount of traffic along the roads through and around the village has substantially increased due to the massive housing developments in Bicester, particularly the Kingsmere estate which is still growing. Large HGVs regularly travel through the village on the A4095, evidence of the damage caused can be seen on the road edges as it is very difficult for 2 large vehicles to pass along some stretches. The local SpeedWatch recorded 457 vehicles travelling in one direction in a 70 minute period - I hope the Planning Committee will take their records into consideration when looking at the implications on the roads. Wates commissioned a travel survey, which was undertaken in 2021 while we were still in periods of lockdown - despite the claim that they adjusted the figures to take this into account, I would suggest the results are far below what the actual traffic will be if this development goes ahead. Since 2021, many more houses have been built on the various developments in Bicester so the traffic has been increasing substantially. Further, building work is about to commence on the travesty that is Great Wolf, so we have already seen an increase in HGV movements. One only has to walk around the two recent developments in Chesterton to see that the majority of homes have at least 2 cars, therefore it does not take a mathematician to realise that there is likely to be somewhere in the region of 300 additional vehicles in the village using the local roads. Since 2016, around 100 additional homes have been built. Additionally, the 2021 Census shows that the population of Chesterton has increased by 243% since the 2011 Census, one of the biggest increases in the county.</p> <p>More housing does not just mean more pressure on the road network, there is also the issue of the drainage system - in periods of heavy rain, the village has experienced flooding where it has not before. The sewerage system also overflows more regularly than it used to. This proposed development is on a greenfield site on the edge of the village so cannot be considered as infilling! It would have a detrimental effect on the environment - increased pollution because of the traffic, displacement of wildlife, increased risk of flooding, in addition to the impact on the rural nature and character of the village. It certainly would not be "in keeping with the character and form of the village". Chesterton has few facilities - the village shop closed many years ago, and we have one pub which currently does not regularly serve food. While there is an excellent primary school, I understand there is very little further capacity, indeed it has recently expanded, and presumably takes in pupils from the new developments in Bicester, all of whom are brought to the school by car.</p> <p>For these, and the many other reasons expressed by residents and the Parish Council, I urge the Planning Committee to turn down this totally disproportionate and unsustainable development.</p>
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Attachments	