

Comment for planning application 23/00853/OUT

Application Number	23/00853/OUT
Location	Land East Of Warwick Road Drayton Warwick Road Banbury
Proposal	Outline application for up to 170 dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated open space and vehicular access off Warwick Road, Banbury; All matters reserved except for access
Case Officer	Richard Greig
Organisation Name	Susan Louise Portman
Address	Orchard House, Main Street, Hanwell, Banbury, OX17 1HN
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I am a resident of Hanwell Village and I am objecting to the proposed additional housing around our village. We are losing so much green space and our historic village is already being swamped by the (badly built) houses that Vistry has erected on Hanwell Fields. One only has to look at some of the brick work on the houses off the road, to understand that this company has no regard for our village and simply wishes to make money, above all.</p> <p>There is already a tremendous strain on local amenities at present and an additional 170 houses will put more pressure on already struggling doctors, internet, schools, sewage works and water. It would not enhance the area or the community, as Vistry like to assert, it would be deleterious to it. This is not to mention the increased traffic that is already using our village as a rat run to traverse between two A roads on the Gaydon and Southam roads. You can't walk on a pavement now, as cars driving through the village mount the pavements at pinch points. 170 houses would be disastrous to us. If each new household had 2 cars (an average guess) then we would have over 340 more cars on the road in our area plus all the visitors and deliveries to those properties. It would also undoubtedly create pollution caused by the traffic. We are supposed to be a conservation area but this appears to be overlooked when it suits. The impact on light pollution from 170 houses would be horrendous, especially to the Hanwell Observatory. We have had enough.</p> <p>Vistry claim they will 'boost the community, how?' We ARE the community and we reject the plans for new houses on top of what we have already had to endure. Hanwell is a very special place with a thriving community. We all moved here for a rural way of life. We moved out of cities because we love and cherish the rural lifestyle. We love the wildlife, the country walks, the views, the fresh air. This would all be gone or significantly diminished if Vistry get their way. You only need to look at the land opposite Hanwell fields to see their lack of respect or concern for wildlife. Ancient hedgerow's have been hacked down, without thought for biodiverse life that was within. There are laws against doing this - and I wonder if they have already been broken.</p> <p>Vistry do not care about the green fields or wildlife it is destroying. They just care about how much money they can make out of their poor-quality housing, that probably has a life span of less than 40 years. These houses have no gardens, just brick and concrete. They are a carbuncle on the landscape that was once fields. We only have to look at Covid 19 Lockdown where people just wanted to escape from these ugly boxes to the joy and mental stimulus of nature. You only have to look at the new towns build in the 70's to see how these badly built houses have actually destroyed communities. As they fall further and further into disrepair, the communities start to fall apart, the houses lose their value and become a no go area because of crime. .</p> <p>We should be making developers build on brownfield sites, to improve the town centre of Banbury, which at the moment is far from thriving. If more flats and affordable housing were built here then it would bring life back into the town. There are already plenty of houses in Banbury for sale and much of this is affordable housing, so there is no 'housing shortage' as you like to declare.</p> <p>Once the green space has gone we will never get it back, it will be gone forever. It is ancient, it is England - and it is ours - for all of us. We can only walk on 8% of England as it is. Once the wildlife has gone it can never come back to these areas.</p> <p>The future generations will not see the beauty of the English countryside. They will not</p>

know what this generation (councils and speculative builders) has destroyed until it is too late. If the children of today cannot see the trees, the hedgerows, the green fields and all the animals and insect that live in them. How will they learn about it and protect it in the future.

The children of today already have mental health issues because all the pressures of life and social media. Getting out into the countryside can help take you away from these things. They can go out and listen to the birds singing, the bees buzzing, the deer scattering across the fields. The beautiful spiders webs in the hedges and fields. They can actually see what a vegetable or grain looks like up close and personal. The land should be farmed or made into environmentally friendly areas - where there is financial support as incentives for farmers and landowners. Why not explore these initiatives? Why does it always have to be bricks?

We must learn to become more self-sufficient in Britain, rather than relying on other countries for our food. We have seen how relying on others can hurt us.

For the same reason Deddington residents objected to the housing developments in their village, we too object. We will always stand up for our small historic villages, we should not be building here at any cost. It is morally wrong! This land is not ours to sacrifice. It is for future generations to live and appreciate it.

You need to dig deep into your conscience and know that there is only one way you should vote and that it is to block and object to this and future development on the area surrounding our beautiful village. You don't have to do what the government wants with box-ticking. You represent this area and its people. You have a duty not only for new housing but for the residents and communities already living here, for the land and for the future.

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Attachments