

Patrick and Helen Bowen
2 Stewarts Court, Sibford Ferris, OX15 5QX

Your reference: Application Number 24/03250/OUT

16th December 2024

Dear Shona King

We have recently received a letter from the Council's Planning and Development Office regarding the removal of the allotment plans on the Deanfield Heights development in Sibford Ferris which is in the final stages of being built.

The letter notifies us the proposal is that the Os parcel of land north of Shortlands and south of High Rock should no longer be used as allotments.

This is not acceptable. When the planning permission was given on appeal for the erection of 25 houses on fertile arable land off Hook Norton road in Sibford Ferris the allotments were part of that permission. Many residents have expressed an interest in having an allotment in the past and many in the future may also welcome such an option. It is also possible that in the future the Sibfords may be in a position to instigate a community growing scheme which may incorporate some of the allotment land if it is not all taken in the early days of being offered. Such a scheme is in operation in many communities and provides a community focus as well as foods which can be shared within the community and, for example, fund-raise for community projects. The allotments could also be used to offer wild flowers to sustain the pollinators which are so crucial to our existence. Other small creatures may also take the chance to set up here too.

This "changing the goalposts" in hindsight approach seems to be a common theme in new development schemes. There are rumours that the developers wish to put up more houses behind this initial development and one cannot help but wonder if this latest amendment may be to assist in this in some way. Instead, one of the potential benefits of this new build scheme to our community, is being taken away. This would affect us in the immediate future as I have indicated above but would also affect the quality of life of future generations in our village. It has an aspect of immediate gain (for whom?) and long-term pain.

I urge the planning committee to consider what is in the best interests of the community of the Sibfords (which now includes the residents of the new builds on Deanfield Heights) and refuse permission for this variation of condition to proceed.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick and Helen Bowen