

Comment for planning application 19/01037/REM

Application Number	19/01037/REM
Location	OS Parcels 6741 And 5426 West Of Cricket Field Nor Wykham Lane Bodicote
Proposal	Reserved matters to 15/01326/OUT - Layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for the residential development of up to 280 dwellings and 34 space car park
Case Officer	Linda Griffiths
Organisation Name	
Name	Andy Holyoak BA(Hons) MCIEEM
Address	10 Freemans Road, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4DT
Type of Comment	Comment
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I have no objection to the proposals overall. The scheme seems to be fine, though architecturally uninspired. I do have two main comments which I hope are helpful and can be taken into account; - The areas of open space are adequate, though devoid of a desire to really maximise biodiversity. The proposed areas of 'species rich grass' are fine, and the EM4 and EM8 Emorgsate mixes are, again, fine. However, these areas are very small, especially when compared to the larger areas of amenity grass, and their provision feels like a box ticking exercise, to demonstrate willingness to achieve gains in biodiversity. Why not have 90% of the grassland areas made up of species rich grass? I appreciate that in the north east, this area forms a gateway to the development, but I would far rather be greeted by a large wildflower meadow, than a sterile manicured lawn. I do not think I am alone in this either. When mental health should be at the forefront of design, I would have thought that land which sits between a Nursery and a Primary School would be far better suited as an area where people can reconnect with nature (not to mention the educational potential of such a feature). I feel that this is a lost opportunity that shouldn't be ignored. In addition, I know that many of the residents of Bodicote feel (wrongly or rightly) that this development will finally lose the village identity as it merges more and more with the town. I would have thought that maintaining a more natural interface (in the form of a wildflower meadow) would assist with addressing some of this feeling? - My second point is in relation to sport provision. It seems that every development that comes forward includes football pitches, as if developers and planners are not aware of any other sport that can be played (or are content to always provide the cheapest option). Again, like the architectural direction, this feels uninspired. Indeed, there are brand new football pitches at Longford Park, which are only 350m away from the front of the proposed development. Do we need more football pitches in this location? Why not tennis courts? With a population of well over 50,000, Banbury has two public tennis courts in People's Park, and these are 3.2km from the proposed development. There are clubs you can join for sure, but freely accessible opportunities to play tennis should be much more available in a town of this size. I would strongly encourage this new development to include tennis courts within this scheme, over yet more football pitches. Thanks</p>
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Attachments	