

Comment for planning application 19/00616/OUT

Application Number	19/00616/OUT
Location	OS Parcel 9507 South Of 26 And Adjoining Fewcott Road Fritwell
Proposal	The erection of up to 28 dwellings and associated site access onto Fewcott Road
Case Officer	James Kirkham
Organisation	
Name	Robin England
Address	8 Hodgson Close, Fritwell, Bicester, OX27 7QB
Type of Comment	Comment
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>It is with anger and disbelief that I, like many other residents of Fritwell read the Parish Council's response of 4th November to the CALA Homes planning application. That the Parish Council can formally support a development to the scale of 28 houses on a greenfield site, that lies outside the established settlement boundary of our small village with its limited amenities, no public transport and poor road access is beyond comprehension. Not only that but the Parish Council's response actually goes on to imply that it is representing the majority view and that the only objections are from those residents who neighbour the site. Where is the empirical evidence to support such a claim? A previous assessment of the CALA site by Cherwell District Council's own planning officer concludes that the site is unsustainable and that there are at least 9 technical points against development of the site to this scale. So, why exactly has the Parish Council decided to support this application? Back in 2014, the Parish Council told us that to protect the village from speculative development, they had no choice but to choose the CALA site. This was presented to us as a fait accompli. However, other than hiding behind the SCHLAA classification, which is a purely technical exercise and one which actually identified more than one site in Fritwell as potential for development, and despite our requests, there has been no explanation by FPC about how this decision was reached. It certainly was not reached through open discussion with the residents of our village. Over the last 5 years or so, we have been told by the Parish Council that we must take 25 houses in new developments in Fritwell. This is untrue, there is no obligation for us to take new developments and the figure of 25 houses appears to have been plucked out of the air. In fact, at the current time, Cherwell District Council only needs to find 4 new homes out of the 750 allocated to Category A villages. The Council can demonstrate a new housing supply for at least the next 5 years, so there is absolutely no need for the release of greenfield land on top of the brownfield, in-fill new developments which are already ongoing in the village. So, why exactly has the Parish Council decided to support this application? As with any development, there are Section 106 payments which are made to the district by developers. If the Playing Field Committee and Village Hall Committee are able to get a fully costed and approved project plan to CDC in time, they might just be able to take a small slice of these payments. Certainly, however, there is a significant amount of funding which will go outside the village and there are no significant improvements to the facilities or amenities in the pipeline as a result of this development. So, why exactly has the Parish Council decided to support this application? The Parish Council process surrounding the selection of the CALA site for development, right through to the way it has effectively ignored and dismissed the views of those who are opposed to the development of any greenfield site in our village, has been poor at best and at worst undemocratic and shameful. A former Parish Councillor once told me that if I want to have any influence over what happens in my village, I need to become a councillor myself. At the time I was shocked as I naively believed that the Parish Council exists to represent the balanced views of the residents as a whole. Now I understand what he meant. In light of their support for the CALA application, I can only assume that the Parish Council will choose to take a similar stance with the proposal by Lagan Homes to develop Dars Field onto which, incidentally, the Parish Council Chair's own house backs. After all, surely if the Parish Council feel that new, large scale developments are so crucial for the benefit of our local community, as to justify building on greenfields in and around the village, they will now take the view that the more new homes built in Fritwell, the better, right? I expect to see the Parish Council offer the same level of support they have shown for this application, to proposed development of ANY greenfield site in and around the village in future, otherwise it will be clear to me and indeed many residents of Fritwell that the Parish Council has chosen to support the CALA Homes development for reasons other than the best interests of our village and its residents. If the Parish Council is of the belief that by supporting the CALA</p>

Homes application, other greenfield sites in the village will somehow be protected against the threat of development, they are sadly misinformed. They will find that Lagan Homes, like CALA, will use every trick in the book to get their planning permission. Ultimately, by supporting the CALA Homes application, the Parish Council has done exactly what it repeatedly warned us about - it has made this village a target for speculative development. I formally request that the Parish Council withdraw their support for the CALA Homes development at the earliest opportunity. Robin England 8 Hodgson Close

Received Date
Attachments

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