CULMSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL.

PARISH CLERK: MRS SUE SQUIRE. HAXLEA, 2 THREEWAYS, BRATTON FLEMING, BARNSTAPLE. EX31 4TG.

TEL: 01598 710526. E MAIL: susan.squire@virgin.net

19 February 2014

Mr P Williams
Forward Planning Team Leader
Mid Devon District Council
Phoenix House
Phoenix Lane
Tiverton
EX16 6PP



By email to: planningconsultations@middevon.gov.uk

Dear Mr Williams

Local Plan Review - Options Stage Consultation

Thank you for your letter of 23 January 2014 together with associated documents.

The Culmstock Parish Council will object to, and will not support, any extension to the Settlement Limits of Culmstock Village.

Yours sincerely
Sue Squire (Mrs)
Parish Clerk

CULMSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Response to MDDC Local Plan Review

Local Plan Review Consultation

Forward Planning

Mid Devon District Council

Phoenix House

Tiverton, EX16 6PP

Response to MDDC Local Plan Review



Date 23RD March 2014

Dear Planning Department

Further to the Parish Council's earlier objection, we write to outline specific concerns bought to the attention of the Parish Council by parishioners along with a list of parishioner's signatures supporting their comments and the original objection.

In particular the majority of objections we have received span the three option sites you have outlined for the village of Culmstock, these being the Linhay 3rd Phase, Highfield's and the Glebe / Rackfield's land.

- The MDDC local plan review options involves development of land currently outside the settlement limit and to this end MDDC have not demonstrated that the settlement limit change proposal provides a substantial public benefit in accordance with the requirements of the National planning policy framework DM27
- It is anticipated that the building of an additional 50 houses across three sites, as you have outlined will add at least 75-100 cars using the road infrastructure in and around the village, The road system in Culmstock is already fit to bursting point with HGV lorries using our village as a to and from the quarries, commuters from surrounding villages and towns doing the same and in some cases HGV'S using the village as a rat-run to link the A303 to the M5, in the middle of our village we have a listed bridge of extreme historic importance, during

the last few years this bridge has been damaged / repaired numerous times and at substantial cost!

- Particularly, access to the Highfield's site has to pass a local primary schools and the village
 playing fields entrance and the potential for an incident here is only increase by further
 development, likewise there is no current road infrastructure suitable for the development
 option at the Glebe and Rackfield's, this site also suffers from dangerous corners to both
 sides increasing the danger and likelihood of traffic accidents, there is also no foot path on
 the Uffculme road and no potential to install one.
- Of the three sites chosen, two of the sites that MDDC propose to build on fields that sit
 above the village on two sides, Culmstock already suffers from water run- off and our
 drainage system is already insufficient and cannot cope, refer to flooding issues in 2012 and
 2013, by building properties here and increasing the water run- off will only make these
 matters worse and potentially increase the flood risk lower in the village.
- Culmstock has a poor waste drainage system, in recent years, again refer to floods in 2012 &
 2013 raw sewage has been back forced into houses at the lowest point in the village because our system in insufficient, adding additional houses will simply impact this situation.
- Our village primary school is full, adding additional properties will result in children being turned away by the school and/or additional infrastructure being required at the school to increase class sizes; this can only have a detrimental effect on the teaching standards provided.
- The Culmstock church is an important, historic heritage asset for the community with its literal links and well published tree growing from the tower and set within a conservation area. The proposed Glebe and Rackfields land sits to the back of the Church and as such the ridge line of a standard house will be above the height of the Church tower adversely changing the views of the village from the Culmstock beacon and surrounding Blackdown hills within the AONB.
- Due to the historical relevance of the houses in the conservation area around the Church, all
 the properties along Fore Street (these all back onto the Glebe and Rackfields land) have
 house wells, so by building on land approximately 40/50 feet above Fore Street, MDDC run
 the risk of increasing the height of the water table, thus increasing the possibility for internal
 flooding or problems associated with the water level.
- Generally if the option sites become adopted there will be a huge loss of green fields surrounding the village and with that a loss of flora or fauna will have an adverse effect of lots of bird and animal life.

The points raised here are a true reflection of the feeling of the parishioners within the village and as such hope that sensitivity and common sense will prevail when further investigation of the outlined sites suitability comes under question at the next stage.

Yours Sincerely

D. Harris

David Harris

Chairman - Culmstock Parish Council

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Local Plan Review for Culmstock

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