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Sandra Hutchings

From: Christine Stevens ·
Sent: 26 February 2014 14:05
To: DPD
Subject: PROPOSED PLANNING FOR HOUSES FIELD BY CHIDDENBROOKE OFF PITT HILL, WESTERNLEA CREDITON EX17

OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED BUILD WESTERLEA/PITT HILL, CREDITON

I have seen with some dismay the planning application for houses in the two fields at the bottom of Pitt Hill. I live in Westernlea at the bottom of this hill. I am sure if anyone visits the site they would see just how unsuitable this site would be. Bring your wellies!!! . Maybe it would be prudent to consult the planners who came out several years ago to look at the site. It was rejected. Maybe due to the fact that water was pouring in the tops of their Wellington boots.

A huge amount of water during rain and for a few days afterwards pours down the hill into Westernlea. The drains are blocked and red mud, stones and debris pour down the hill. The road always has to be swept and drains cleared. The bungalow at the bottom of the hill has a garden which is sodden. The owner cleans the drains herself very regularly to prevent even more water in the garden.

If one estimates that 10% of the water is at present running down Pitt Hill from the fields above, it does not take much imagination to see that when the land is built on we can expect 100% to be running down the hill. This would overflow the Chiddenbrooke at the bottom of the hill (this has already had to be cleared twice this winter), and water would pour off the road into the houses. Some of the houses in Westernlea are built with the brook running at the bottom of their gardens. (accessed by a steep bank), one of the houses already report that the stream has been up to the edge of their lawn.

I realise that the recent storms are hopefully not going to return for a few years but return they will. Surely some common sense must be used when planning to cover boggy fields with concrete therefore directing the natural water flow into peoples houses. Sites on higher ground should be chosen not the ones at the bottom of hills close to a brook. I appreciate that there are always people going to say "not in my back yard" but surely we should try to avoid problems in future years relating to flooding not causing them.

Westernlea has an historic record of flooding in the past due to the amount of water from the fields above Pitt Hill and behind the estate. Please consult records of these events before allowing this build which will put the whole estate at risk again.

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