

Sandra Hutchings

From: Chris Gundry
Sent: 04 February 2014 18:05
To: DPD
Subject: new house building proposals for silverton village

To whom it may concern. Silverton is an ancient, beautiful, peaceful, unspoiled village in the heart of the Exe valley with a contented community of long term residents, many of whom have local roots that go back generations. Silverton is just the right size with an appropriate provision of local services. The village does not seek, need or welcome any form of population expansion or increase in the number of buildings. Any such increases will simply wreck the much admired and cherished environment in which home owners have carefully chosen to live. Additional building development will put unacceptable pressure upon existing services, reduce property values, introduce traffic, noise, disruption and mess. Above all it will cause enormous and completely unjustified disquiet and frustration to an otherwise happy and smoothly functioning population. New housing on any scale and within any of the identified potential sites will be unsightly and unwanted. It is likely to attract undesirable relocatees dumped in the area by other local authorities, immigrants, and those who may have little inclination to preserve and protect the current layout and atmosphere of an increasingly rare example of rural England at it best. Existing social relationships, traditions and capacities will inevitably be harmed and changed forever, to the detriment of future generations. It must be worthy of note and deep concern that these proposals appear not to include any detailed indications of what additional services and capacities will be required and how these might impact upon village life.....for example schooling, public transport, parking, surgeries, waste disposal and security. The proposed sites will clearly spoil existing views of the surrounding countryside, destroy the relatively safe and popular lanes currently enjoyed by walkers, the young and the elderly and turn the access routes into places of danger. I wish to register my very strong objections to all such development proposals on the aforementioned grounds and particularly because Central and District authorities have no reasonable rights in my view to impose expansion on our village no matter what housing difficulties they face....none of which are the fault or responsibility of the present residents. Planning proposals of this nature show no regard for the lives, freedoms, rights and lifestyle choices of those who stand to be affected by them. Building on greenfield sites within Silverton village is wrong, unfair and unwarranted, especially when brownfield sites and approved new towns exist elsewhere. The people of Silverton do NOT want further building to take place and have no belief in claims that such building will provide affordable homes for the young and smaller homes for the retired, who currently populate the village. Even if these claims were proven promises, the arguments against would remain pertinent. All these proposals should now be rejected. Common sense and due consideration should prevail, if an act of rural vandalism is to be avoided.

