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2 Chestnut Close
Cheriton Bishop
EX6 6JR

3 March 2014

Local Plan Review Consultation
Forward Planning
Mid Devon District Council
Phoenix House
Tiverton
EX16 6PP



Dear Sirs

COMMENTS ON LOCAL PLAN 2013-2033

My comments relate to the possible erection of houses on the Glebe land in Cheriton Bishop, which I assume would also include the Village Green.

The reason for my opposition to the construction of houses on the Glebe land (Village Green) is that this would remove a great community asset. Since the Council started regular cutting of the grass some years ago, people use the Village Green daily in summer time and when the weather is favourable. Those availing themselves of the pleasure of outdoor activities range from individuals, groups of children, youngsters, parents with babies and toddlers, or older people. They frequently play a variety of sports (cricket, football, golf, kite flying) or have picnics on the Village Green.

On many occasions residents of Cheriton Bishop have remarked that there is 'nothing for the young people to do', and complain of their behaviour. Young people are poorly served in rural communities, yet we adults provide little in the form of leisure activities, sports grounds or general play areas. Indeed, the only recreational facility in the village is the Village Green. It is particularly gratifying to see younger residents playing sport on the Green, or just socialising with friends. It would be tragedy if this, the only playing area in the village, were to make way for a housing development.

Since we are fortunate in having other areas in the village which are equally, if not more, suited to housing, we therefore have a unique opportunity to retain and preserve the Village Green for the residents of Cheriton Bishop. As the village grows through the erection of further housing, there will be an even greater need to provide recreation facilities. In fact, it is incumbent on us to provide such facilities, and a decision to dispense with the Village Green would be a calamity for Cheriton Bishop and a devastating abrogation of our responsibilities. Future generations would be astounded if this feature were to be sacrificed for housing (when alternatives are available).

I do have a vested interest as my house looks out over the Village Green and beyond to Dartmoor. I am also opposed to a housing development on the Village Green because it will obliterate my view of Dartmoor and therefore affect the pleasure of living where I do. A housing development would considerably reduce the value of my house. I obviously paid a premium for the location, and a series of houses on the Village Green would nullify this premium were I to sell my house.

Yours faithfully

Dr Ian Hipkin