

**Sandra Hutchings**

**From:** Piers Pepperell  
**Sent:** 06 March 2014 20:40  
**To:** DPD  
**Subject:** Proposed developments in Hemyock and surrounding parts of mid devon

I am writing in response to the above as I am unable to attend the public meeting this evening in the village hall. I understand the vision and spatial strategy (needlessly complicated terminology which alienates a lot of people and puts them off filling in your online survey) and realise the need for new housing provision for various parts of society i.e. those that can afford to buy and those that cannot. I think that a few more houses in Hemyock wouldn't damage the wonderful community that already exists here. However too many and you will destroy this sense of community. It has been formed over decades and is successful due to the village having a great mix of people at a level that can have a school, sports clubs, pub, regular market and attractions for all ages. If you increase the number of people you reduce the familiarity people have with faces that they recognise, without necessarily knowing, around the village. It is this familiarity that makes people feel safe and part of something, especially the elderly. Too many unrecognisable people and they will start to retreat into their homes and there will be less community feeling.

There are several other issues that would be arguments against 200 new homes

1. The school is full
2. The secondary school at uffculme is full
3. There are very few jobs available within the community for people in the affordable homes. Their limited income will mean that travel outside of hemyock to towns and areas of employment will greatly impact on their household budgets. Any affordable homes should be prioritised for people working locally and with lower incomes.
4. There is no way of widening the road next to the spar, a major conduit between either side of the village, which will mean regular serious congestion during busy times
5. There are 30 homes for sale in hemyock at this time. Some have never been filled in the 5 years I have been a resident. Why do we need 200 more?

So I would consider the 30 home plan acceptable but 80+ homes likely to have a major impact to the detriment of the community and everyone in it.

However I am sadly sceptical that any of the opinions of people within the community will be listened to and this email is likely to just be filed after an auto reply sent.

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