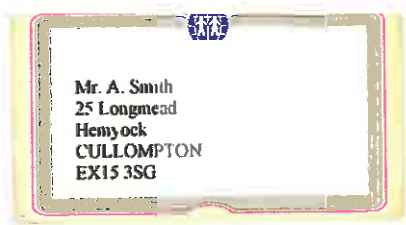


ADJ

205 / 4142



Dear Sir,

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

I recently attended an Open Meeting of the Hemyock Parish Council, called to discuss the possible building of an extra 195 houses in the village by 2033.

I was aware that three potential sites had been offered for development, and was anxious to express my disappointment that more growth for the village was in prospect. In the last few years I have opposed (unsuccessfully) a number of projects, because MDDC does not seem to appreciate the pressure that we villagers are already under. While the 'Planners' can easily tick the boxes for more growth, you seem not to consider the implications of this growth. For instance:

1. The roads are inadequate

They may have been alright for horses and carts but the current volume of coaches, lorries carrying timber, woodflakes and agricultural supplies and tractors as well as the number of domestic cars and goods vehicles, makes traffic a major hazard. In an attempt to improve safety the Parish Council has introduced 20 mph signs on the through roads, yet in busy local towns e.g. Taunton and Wellington, they are almost unused. Parking is very competitive. Private cars and motor bikes are in constant use in and around the village as public transport is very limited. The new sites "offered" are all on the edge of the village, so new people will be focussing on the Post Office, churches, pub, school, doctors, etc for their needs.

2 The Primary School

Currently, it is just coping with the student load, but more homes means more children, and enlargement of the school building.

3 The Blackdown Practice

Likewise, expansion of staff and facilities would be required. Parking here for staff or patients is already inadequate and the Surgery would probably need resiting.

4 Sewers

When we moved in to our brand new house at Longmead in 2005, we were horrified to find raw sewage welling up onto the roads and pavements, through which children paddled on their way to school. We understand that the developer had to contribute funds to MDDC to help with the cost of sewer improvement, but this has not yet occurred. Would any new housing developments have their own sewage systems? With the likelihood of more rainfall in the UK, expenditure on improved drainage and sewage systems is crucial. The most damage this 'summer' was suffered by the Anglican Church and the Pub.

I was relieved to learn at the meeting on 6 March 14 that you have a number of other possible sites "offered". Rather than try to augment Hemyock village I would hope you would consider 'brownfield' sites elsewhere, or locations close to the M5 corridor, since employment opportunities are more likely to be accessible this way than in the Blackdown Hills

I do hope these comments help you when considering alternative sites than those 'offered' in Hemyock.



Yours faithfully,

A.C.Smith

14/03/14