

**Peter Williams**

**From:** Margaret Squires  
**Sent:** 17 March 2014 14:24  
**To:** 'Frank Stevens'  
**Cc:** Peter Williams  
**Subject:** RE: Newton St Cyres Parish council

Thank you for copying me in - I am forwarding this to MDDC forwardplanning

Regards  
 Margaret

-----Original Message

**From:** Frank Stevens  
**Sent:** 16 March 2014 22:46  
**To:**  
**Cc:** Margaret Squires  
**Subject:** Newton St Cyres Parish council



Dear David,

I am writing to you regarding my concerns over the Mid Devon council plans to build up to 120 houses in Newton St Cyres. The building of a new estate east or west of Tytheing close would be seen from the road as you enter the village and very much spoil the quaint country feel and look of Newton St Cyres. With tourism being one of the South Wests biggest assets we need to strive to keep the picture postcard look of Devon's villages. If big estates are just randomly added on to our villages we run the risk of irreparably ruining the look and feel of the countryside. If we allow this to happen our tourism trade will diminish and result in an increase in unemployment in the area, this will then result in a fall in the need for housing as people will not be able to afford to live here or even want to as we will have spoilt it. Housing may well be needed in this part of the world but it needs to be done in a sympathetic way, just adding houses to unspoilt villages is a short sighted, easy solution that will come back and haunt us. Ideas like building a new town adjacent to Cullompton has a lot of merits, being close to the M5, good travel links both north and south, good train links with the proposed train station. Housing solutions like this must be examined first before villages are ruined. Building where there are good transport links not only makes sense from the road and travel infrastructure point of view but also for the delivery of building materials to site.

The A377 is an A road in name only, it is basically a glorified B road that is not very well maintained. This is not only in regards to the pot holes and layers of tarmac peeling but also in its blocked drains and overgrown drainage gullies and not to mention the risk of subsidence of the steep banks. In the mornings the queue to get into Exeter quite often tails back to Newton St Cyres, this is because you are trying to get into Exeter by the back door, the whole road infrastructure was never intended to accommodate large volumes of traffic. As I understand it there are approximately 12,000 two way trips per day on the A377 between Exeter and Crediton. More houses will cause more problems on this already choked up road, not just the residents but also appliance maintenance and store delivery vehicles, visitors etc. There have been 32 accidents between Cowley bridge and Crediton in the last 6 years (not including 2013/14) 12 of these happened in the Newton St Cyres parish. The effect of safety on the A377 has to be paramount to this planning review, the problems will not be solved by placing a few speed cameras along the road, a greater volume of traffic will increase the risks. Cyclists are particularly at risk, we encourage them to cycle to work but put their lives at risk by increasing the volume of traffic, particularly the vehicles delivering the building materials.

We owe it to our children and future generations to preserve this county and all that's good about it.

The proposal to move the school to station road and build a small number of houses, under 20, on the site vacated by the school will alleviate the need for affordable housing in the village but minimise the impact, I would be very unhappy to see any further development in Newton St Cyres.

Yours sincerely  
 Frank Stevens  
 29 Tytheing Close  
 Newton St Cyres  
 Exeter  
 EX5 5DB