

20 Lower Millhayes
Hemyock
Devon
EX15 3SL



15 March 2014

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

Dear Sirs

MDDC LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – HEMYOCK PARISH

I would like to register my objections to the three suggested sites within the parish of Hemyock for potential building.

Some years ago the site to the north of Culmbridge Farm was put forward for building and the plan was rejected. If this plan was ever suggested again it should be remembered that the exit of the 'relief road' to the north of the site is on the flood plain! The whole of this site is on some of the highest ground in the village and slopes away from the village. Any development of this area would be a huge visual eye sore. The other site at Culmbridge Farm is also on high sloping ground and therefore also be another visual eyesore. Neither would be in keeping with the AONB status of the Blackdown Hills. The site to the south west of Conigar Close should be retained for any future affordable housing that the village might need for the local people.

The current infrastructure of the village is stretched almost to breaking point and has been for some years. The volume of cars and large lorries passing through the village, on top of all the local traffic, causes major problems in Station Road and on Pencross Hill. Trying to get an appointment in the Surgery is a 'big headache'. Does the MDDC realise that the doctors from the Hemyock Surgery also have to cover the Surgeries in Dunkeswell and Churchingford? The Primary school is bursting at the seams, although they could take a few more children if they made all the classes up to 30 pupils, they don't have the facilities to actually cope with those numbers. The sewage works is unable to cope with the present population. Sewage frequently overflows in Longmead and in periods of heavy rain overflows in many other areas too. The smell from the sewage works is also a problem and at times very unpleasant. Any further housing development in Hemyock would only serve to exacerbate these problems and make life unbearable for the residents.

The option of a new settlement in the area of Junction 27 should be the preferred site for future housing development. This area is already a transport hub so there would be easy access to the motorway and railway. As land at Junction 27 has already been allocated for industrial development it should mean that jobs would be on the doorstep of the new settlement, thus reducing the need to travel by car for many.

Over the years Hemyock has had more than its fair share of housing development due to the fact that it was designated a 'local centre'. It can no longer absorb any more housing or development. The village is part of the Blackdown Hills AONB; any future development will detract from the rural setting and the AONB.

Yours faithfully

R D Jenkins