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Via email

## ST MARY'S CHURCH KENTISBEARE

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18<sup>th</sup> March 2014

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

Dear Sirs,

I am writing on behalf of the PCC of St Mary's Church, Kentisbeare in reference to the proposal to build 26 new houses on the land adjacent to the village hall and car park.

The PCC feel that the area of the land in question is too small to support that number of houses, and that as the land is on the hill above the hall, car park and the church, covering the land with concrete and houses could cause some problems with drainage and water run off. The water would run through the car park and into the churchyard which is still in use as the burial ground for the village. We have had a problem already with the field on the other side of the car park which was ploughed incorrectly - vertically instead of horizontally - which resulted in the graveyard being covered in a foot of silt, which the parishioners had to clear by hand.

The proximity of the proposed site to the village hall and large car park would not be conducive to the lives of the people who would live there. The hall and car park are in continual use both during the day and especially in the evenings, the last thing they will need late in the evening is the sounds of car door slamming and engines revving as people leave the car park.

Another factor concerning the site of the development is that the bedrooms of the houses will be on a level with the church tower which could be quite noisy when the bells are rung both on a Sunday morning and during the evening in the week when they practice. We also have visiting teams of bell ringers when they ring for about 3 hours. I am sure that the council do not want the hassle of people complaining and trying to get them stopped, which we in the village would fight also. We realise that this is not a reason to stop the planned development but it could cause problems in the future.

We presume that the access to the site would be improved as it is at the narrowest part of the road with poor visibility. Parking could also be a problem unless sufficient parking is provided with the houses, the village hall car park is private for use of the hall or church only not for residents. We have a problem at the moment in the village with parking when parents come to drop off children for the school and collect them again in the afternoon and the police are monitoring the situation.

The PCC are not against a small development in the village with low cost housing for local people but we do feel that the site you are proposing is not in the right place for the village and the number of houses proposed is too many.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Hoar (Mrs)

Hon. Sec. to the Parochial Church Council