

Ack

Sandra Hutchings

From: Samantha Kent
Sent: 23 March 2014 19:03
To: DPD
Subject: Objection to Silverton Local Plan Review

The Old Dairy,
Fore Street,
Silverton,
Devon EX5 4HP

22nd March 2014



REF: MID DEVON LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

OPTIONS CONSULTATIONS: SILVERTON

I, Samantha Burnett of The Old Dairy, Fore Street, Silverton, EX5 4HP object to the proposals to allocate large scale sites for development outside of the current settlement limits of Silverton village as they plainly and demonstrably are contrary to the principles of the planning system and policy guidance notes.

My objections to the proposals are set out in Part 1 attached hereto.

I support Option 2b (new settlement east of M5 Junction 28) which identifies that such a development will be essential in the longer term, but appreciating also the benefits that it will bring to the Cullompton area and its residents both in terms of new employment, services, facilities, and regeneration as recognized by the Cullompton Town Council who support this proposal. The consequences of its adoption would also reduce the pressure upon existing settlements and the environmental impact upon the village areas.

**PART 1:
COMMENTS AND OBJECTION TO DEVELOPMENT AS PROPOSED IN SILVERTON**

1. The current adopted Local Plan has a clear and logical boundary for Silverton (last confirmed as late as 2011)
2. Policy COR 17 within that Plan states that development in the relevant villages will be limited to MINOR PROPOSALS within defined settlement limits and to allow affordable housing to meet local need.
3. Silverton was, in 2007, confirmed as one of 21 villages identified as a settlement suitable for VERY LIMITED DEVELOPMENT.
4. Since 2007, MDDC has more than met its annual target year on year within these rules for development within the nominated villages.
5. Silverton, in particular, has remained proactive in delivery of affordable housing.
6. The need, where established, can be adequately met as before by sensitive and sensible infilling of existing land within the current settlement limit and small scale development which does not adversely impact upon the character, heritage and setting of the village.
7. Policy S14 within the new proposals states that development is to be limited to proposals within defined settlement limits and to allocations for 'SMALL SCALE HOUSING' or other limited development which enhances community vitality or meets a local or economic need. The Forward Planning Officer in the public meeting held on 25/02/14 conceded that proposed sites of 35

houses (The Glebe), 45 houses (2 sites at Old Butterleigh Rd of 30 and 15 houses if taken together), and 60 houses (east of Hederman Close) are neither 'small scale' as defined, nor 'other limited development' and thus these proposals are in breach of current and proposed policy. There is no evidence produced of a 'local need' within Silverton to justify development of this proposed size. There are no employment benefits established, a consequence of which would be an increase in commuting and further traffic congestion on the already narrow village roads. Development of what amount to large scale sites in Silverton is unwelcome and will be resisted as the level of proposed development is too large to be integrated into the village community.

8. The current proposals for Silverton only include sites that have been put forward by landowners and/or developers, rather than being properly evaluated upon the basis of planning merit. This was confirmed at the public meeting. This methodology is flawed and results in a focus on sites that may be unacceptable in terms of their environmental impact, the impact on the people of this community (ie. in the possible loss of allotments as in the proposed site at Old Butterleigh Rd) and the impact on the infrastructure of the village. Development is being forced onto land which otherwise may be inappropriate in planning and environmental terms and upon a scale which is unacceptable and in breach of policy.

VILLAGES POLICY: The proposals breach the relevant policy that emphasizes the need for the environmental protection of our villages. Silverton is said to be the third oldest village in Devon, and over many years has largely retained its character and historic core.

1. The proposals for what is large scale/significant development are contrary to existing long established policies designed to protect the CHARACTER, HERTIAGE and SETTING of the village (Policy S10)
2. They will damage Silverton's ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESTS.
3. They will contradict the development strategy designed to PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE BUILT AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT.
4. They will contravene the Council's own ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES (Policy S2). Consequences include: Increased traffic to and through the village on unsuitable lanes and roads as Silverton becomes effectively a dormitory town with significantly increased commuting to and from work and schools elsewhere. This is in direct conflict with Spatial Strategy (particularly Policy S2(e)). Public transport is expensive and inadequate and not 'good' as described in preliminary planning evaluation. The proposals will destroy hedges, natural habitats and general biodiversity. It will increase flooding risk. It will strain local resources.
5. Once significant development commences outside the settlement limits, it sets precedent, and further development becomes harder to resist and control. Examination of the current housing market for Silverton establishes a large number of houses of all types, sizes and prices available for sale in order to meet local need. Supported by future infill and small scale, sensitive development as identified and supported by the village, this is more than enough to meet local need.

At this point, I wish to specifically object to any development on land south of St Mary's Church, known as 'The Glebe'.

- 1 It is within the conservation area of the village, part of an historic landscape running down from the Church and the Bury. A modern development would spoil the beauty of this area of the village, and would be at odds with its character, enjoyed by all residents of the village not just by those who live near it (Policy S10). It is in direct line of sight of the Church, a listed building.

- 2 It sits within a network of narrow lanes and has poor access. The increase in traffic from a housing development would make the lanes dangerous. Traffic would also cause air and noise pollution.
- 3 The lanes around the Glebe site give safe, level access to the countryside from the village. It is the only side of the village where this is possible. It is therefore an important amenity area for the people of Silverton where they can walk, walk dogs, push prams and ride bicycles. The Walk and Talk group (a health initiative backed by the NHS) walk in these lanes every week. Any development on the Glebe would have a negative impact on these activities.
- 4 There would be a substantial adverse effect on nature in this unspoilt area and inevitable tree loss and destruction of hedges.
- 5 The site is of archaeological interest and is high grade farm land.
- 6 Sewage and waste on this side of the village is over capacity.
- 7 Mass development and the consequent requirement of widening of the lanes would be out of keeping with the surrounding area. I object to large scale development (anything more than 5 houses) within any of the proposed sites as, in the case of The Glebe, the entrance to the village from the Poundland/Hayne end is a 'Rural Gateway'. This is the same for The Garage site and The Old Butterleigh Rd site.

In regards to the development of the allotment site at Old Butterleigh Rd, I object to any development on this site as the allotments provide an important facility for a number of villagers to enjoy outside space, grow their own produce and provides a means of ensuring enhanced health and well-being. It would be ridiculous to 'take away' such a resource from the village.

Additionally by building in this area, there will be an inevitable increase in traffic. The main artery through the village – Fore street and High street are congested already and due to on-street parking these roads are in many places single track. Traffic even now mounts the pavement to pass one another. There is no means by which this road can be widened nor should it be, as it is within the conservation area of our village. The alternative route from Old Butterleigh Rd would go through the residential area of Silverdale and Applemead, at the bottom of which is a T junction. To the left traffic joins the village centre at a blind junction (this is the case due to buildings and on-street parking). In sending traffic this way not only is it dangerous as per the previous comment but the village centre is already congested due to parking in the Square for the shop, the bus stop (the bus stops in the middle of the main road to drop off and pick up passengers) and add to this the delivery lorries for the shop and the through traffic from the other four roads meeting at the square and one can see the issue that will only be worsened by additional traffic flow from the Old Butterleigh Rd area (via Old Tiverton Rd) If traffic goes right at the bottom of Applemeade along what is know as "Jenny's portion' one would then join the main Tiverton-Exeter road but this is a junction with very limited visibility and is already considered a highly dangerous exit from the village. Undoubtedly, any increase in traffic exiting the village this way is likely to end in an accident of sorts.

Indeed in any of the proposed sites, any extra traffic that goes through the village which it will need to do in order to exit to elsewhere, will be putting a great strain upon an already overstretched infrastructure. The only site that holds any credible option for exiting Silverton without a need for major road development would be the site next to Hederman Close as the village can be exited towards Ellerhayes, limiting the impact on the village centre.

In respect of the Local Plan Review, the proposal of large scale development in any of the sites would be contrary to a number of statements and policies:

Spatial Strategy: Villages (p28): The development would not avoid significant increased travel by car (rather it would increase traffic congestion on many of the narrow access roads) and would not protect or enhance Silverton's environmental assets.

Sustainable development priorities - Policy S2 (p20-21): The development would not reduce the need to travel by car and would adversely affect the setting of Silverton.

Policy S10: The development would adversely affect the character and setting of Silverton.

Policy S14: The development would be contrary to this policy as the site is outside of the existing settlement limit and is not 'small scale' housing, as conceded by the Forward Planning Officer. The public transport to the village is 'poor'.

Paragraph 3.113 of the Review states that MDDC will carefully consider the impacts to the character of rural settlements. The development of land to the south of St Mary's Church will have an adverse impact on the character of the ancient village of Silverton.

In conclusion, for the above reasons, we strongly object to any development of the land to the south of St Mary's Church, known as The Glebe, Old Butterleigh Rd, Livinghsayes and the Garage which would be contrary to the policies and proposals of the adopted Local Plan, and contrary to proposed policies in the current Local Plan Review. We would ask that these sites are deleted from further consideration for these reasons.

If any development is to take place, as stated above it should be small scale and in my opinion in the land next to Hederman Close. But in regards to what is required in this village, it is 'family homes'. A review of the current housing market in Silverton will show that small houses without what would be considered a 'large outside space' such as have recently been built on the old Londis site (on the square) are not selling. These houses are not even 60% sold and have been on the market for approximately 2-3 years. Similar properties that were built behind the Spar on Exeter Road, accordingly have not sold and are no rented properties. On the other hand two 'family homes' (a 4 bedroom house in St Annes Close and a 3-4 bedroom house in Meadow Lea) were recently on the market and sold within weeks. The thing both have in common is room for families to grow and gardens that are larger than a patio which is what more recent developments have not had. I would ask that any development that does occur is that which is needed in the village and not simply more of the same ridiculously small scale homes that families cannot live in. In allowing small homes that serve single people or couples to be built, you are limiting the options to 'move up' for the current 'growing' families in the village and in turn changing the demographic of the village. We are fortunate to have a wonderful community here and we need to keep this alive. We do not wish to become a 'dormitory' village for Exeter or Tiverton, a place where young professionals live because there are houses suitable for them but not for families. We need to keep the village alive by providing affordable homes for families.

In trust that any opinions and objections from Silverton parishioners will be listened to and considered seriously in decision-making, that there will be room for a bespoke response to the housing needs of the village and that the process will not simply be a box ticking exercise that appeases a central government.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Samantha Burnett

Mrs S J Burnett,
The Old Dairy,
Fore street,
Silverton,
Devon EX5 4HP
20th March 2014



Ref: MDDC Local Plan Review (Silverton)
To whom this concern,

This letter is sent from a number of parishioners within Silverton village who hold allotments in the area to the left of Old Butterleigh Road (please see our names and addresses below). This letter is written in regards to the Silverton Local Planning Review and to object to the 'potential' use of the land known on your plans as 'Land at Old Butterleigh Road' within whose bounds are the allotment gardens.

Irrespective of any differences of opinion or objections we may each hold to the MDDC local plans for development in Silverton parish, we are united in objecting to any building upon the land that is currently used by many villagers for their allotment gardening.

Many of those who hold allotments have done so for a number of years and others have waited patiently, in certain cases up to seven years, on a list to become allotment holders. It is heartbreaking to consider the possibility that the time, effort, enthusiasm and resources in establishing these allotments could all be wasted.

Silverton is considered the third oldest village in Devon and as such many of the houses are old, traditional and have small gardens, if at all. Indeed, many of the newer-built houses in the village also have very limited outside space. These allotments, therefore, provide the opportunity for the young, old and those in-between to get outdoors, enjoy fresh air and exercise and to maintain good health and well-being. Allotments encourage healthy eating and provide the opportunity for the younger generation to learn about where their food comes from by growing their own fruit and veg on land that they may not have had the space to do otherwise. All the above benefits of holding an allotment fit nicely in line with current government policy of encouraging more active lifestyles and healthy eating for all. Surely, it would be considered a detrimental and backwards action to take away such an important, existing facility from the village.

We hope in your consideration of any kind of further development within our beautiful village, along with following government guidelines you will be subjective too, and listen to our community voice. We hope you will help us to maintain the very special community spirit we are so fortunate to have here and to retain our current facilities - KEEP OUR ALLOTMENTS.

Yours faithfully, , ^

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Signature</u>	
MR SIMON TATMAN 1046/(4847)	25 COACIL RD, SILVERTON. EX5 4JY	-	20/3/14
CAMELIA VINNICOMBE 1047/(4848)	5 WYNDHAM RD EX5 4JU	-	20/3/14
GEORGE MILLE 1048/(4849)	THE COURTYARD EXETER ROAD SILVERTON. EX5 4JY	-	20/3/14
CHRIS ODGERS 1049/(4850)	10A TINELOW ROAD SILVERTON EX5 4JQ	-	20/3/14
GRAEME WHITEHEAD 1050/(4851)	3 EYE VIEW EX5 4 SILVERTON	-	20.3.14
RICHARD WHITE 1051 (4852)	52 FORE ST. SILVERTON EX5 4HZ.	-	20/3/14
JENNY BROOKS 1052/(4853)	51 WYNDHAM RD SILVERTON EXETER EX5 4JZ	-	20/03/14
Loraine Sheppard 1053/(4854)	46 Wyndham Rd Silverton Exeter EX5 4JZ	-	20/3/14
Justin Cave 1054/(4855)	35 Wyndham Road Silverton EX5 4JU	-	20/3/14

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Signature</u>
EMMA POOLE 1055/(4856)	9 COACH ROAD EX5 4JL	20.3.14
LYNNE 1056/(4857)	19 SILVERDALE EX5 4JF	
SIGRID SHELLEY 358/(4266)	36 FORE STREET EX5 4HZ	20.03.14
Sally Jackson 1057/(4858)	14 High St EX5 4JD	21/3/14
Lea-Ann Murphy 1058/(4859)	4 Prosper View EX5	
Julie B 1059/(4860)	6 Fore St EX5 4HP	
Samantha Burnett 761/(4595)	The Old Dairy Fore St. EX5 4HP	21/3/14