

Sandra Hutchings

Ask

From: Alcock, Robert < >
Sent: 19 March 2014 18:05
To: DPD
Subject: Local Plan Review - Cheriton Fitzpaine



Hello

I live in Cheriton Fitzpaine and attended a meeting last night at which Peter Williams, who I understand is your Forward Planning Officer, spoke about the Local Plan Review and how it may affect our village

He told the 100 or so people that attended that responses were needed by next Monday and that the e-mail address to send these to was on the MDDC website.

I have to say that I found this very difficult to find. I could see no reference to it at all at <http://www.middevon.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8812> which appeared to be the MDDC Planning home page

Anyway I hope that either the one I am using is right OR you will be able to forward this for me to the correct place

My views are that of the 4 potential site identified on the plan

- a) site 1 marked as Glebe would seriously impact on the visual amenity of the village and would significantly impact on its existing character. The village has a large and dominant central area which, for good reason, has been designated conservation area. Allowing development on site 1 would significantly diminish the impact of the conservation area when approaching from the south. It could even appear to first time visitors that they should turn left at Wordland Cross instead of going straight on. And this, in my opinion, makes this site unacceptable
- b) I am happy with the three other sites but of these my preference would be for the one marked 4 "Landboat Farm". The reason for my preference for this is that it would at least advance the opportunity to have lit footpath between the village and the Football Club and having a lit footpath would be a lot safer, would encourage visitors to the Football Club to walk rather than drive and would join the Football Club to the village

As to the nature of any future development in the village I think it is important to look at the balance of type of housing. I have lived in the village nearly 30 years and many new houses have been built in that time but they have all been 4 bed detached houses and my view is that we don't need more of those. We do need more smaller houses to meet the needs of young people with small children and to provide alternatives within the village for older people currently living in large houses either on their own or in couples. This does not necessary mean cheap houses although an increase in Housing Assos managed rental and part ownership schemes would be welcome too

This is a vibrant village with a lovely new school, a truly 'Local' Pub and a village shop but it needs to be supported and the addition of a suitable mix of 30-40 houses would, in my view, bring significant benefit. Without growth our pub and our shop may, very sadly, close as we have seen in other villages

Peter Williams reported that the preference of DCC was for much larger new groupings of houses to be formed along the M5 corridor. While I can see the benefits in doing that in terms of infrastructure and transport links I fear all this will produce is a characterless monotony of a lot of new build that is all very similar to each other. Very much "Little boxes on the hillside etc." Our village is a diverse and established community where all the individuals in it know and care about each other. This is not a lifestyle that appeals to everyone but I believe it is one that needs to be protected and cherished.

Bob Alcock