

Sandra HutchingsAsk
Request.

From: Diane Richards
Sent: 24 March 2014 22:51
To: DPD
Subject: proposed housing developments in mid Devon



Dear Sir / Madam

I read with great sadness about the proposed development of 1000s of new homes in mid Devon, particularly those near to the Grand Western canal.

At this late stage I cannot word a proper formal objection but feel compelled to voice my thoughts.

I would love to move to the Tiverton area. I discovered it over two years ago and go back as often as I can. The main attraction for me is the peace and tranquillity I have found in an unspoilt area, which is yet still close to major cities. People have time to stop and talk and appreciate the important things in life like creating beautiful gardens (estate agents use a 'large or attractive garden' as a selling point there whereas in the area I am now living in near Heathrow it would be described as having 'development potential' or 'scope to extend'). It is such a relief to be able to walk beside or drive along roads which are not over busy. The canal is a haven for wildlife and I've rarely seen litter dropped there. All around there are beautiful views and surely the air must be cleaner - all of these assets must have a positive effect on the health of people living there.

I have watched the area I am now living in become more and more congested; every small space is filled with housing developments; the roads are almost at a standstill at times; water pressure is often low and recently sewers have been overflowing. It can take a month to get a doctor's appointment and waiting times for hospital appointments are unacceptable. Schools are bursting at the seams and new ones are having to be opened in unsuitable locations to cope with the rapidly increasing number of children (one has to use the local park for P.E. and a mini bus to take the children over a busy road to lunch in what was an old pub!) Yet still the local council give planning permission for more development. The local canal has been ruined by the developments near it - more people sadly equate more litter and fly tipping.

After all who are all your proposed houses for? Surely it is only developers who are going to benefit? If each household has on average 2 cars that would mean 2000 extra cars on your roads. And where is the employment for all of these people? I understand that unemployment in the area is already a problem. After the housing developments would come the need for new roads, schools, supermarkets etc., etc., and the peaceful area I have grown to love would be as spoilt as the area I am now living in.

I urge mid Devon Council to appreciate the assets you have in the Tiverton area - the beautiful countryside, the Grand Western Canal, greenery wherever you look; the ability to see vast sky-scapes. Please do not ruin this in order to make money.

I apologise for writing in such haste.

Kind regards

Diane Richards
(Would-be Tiverton resident)