

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the allocation of site 3, Windmill Lane, Balsall Common

I wish to register my objection to the on-going proposal, in the Draft Local Plan, to build 220 housing units on the greenbelt, greenfield land between Windmill Lane and the Kenilworth Road in Balsall Common known as Site 3.

Reason for my objection is as detailed below, that any development in the surroundings of Berkswell windmill will have a negative impact on the airflow to and from the mill and therefore any changes on the current arrangement of the environment and surroundings of the mill will have a negative impact on the operation, historic value and is against the preservation of the mill.

1. Berkswell windmill is a grade 2 listed building and therefore there is no doubt about its historic value and the need for its preservation. Unlike a static building the windmill was build to be driven by wind-power and its location at its time of build was not only for its proximity to its customers, but mainly because consideration for its location was given to guarantee of a free and outflow of wind, so its surroundings and environment. These conditions are as important today as it was at the time of build. The mill needs free airflow without turbulence to operate properly and with it its historic value; its protection of its environment should be part in the preservation of the mill.
2. We could easily assume that just because the mill is no longer in commercial use it has lost its value and importance. The mill is however a grade 2 listed building and has a historic value, more importantly it is the only surviving one of its kind in the local area that operates. The mill is operational on regular open days with guided tours that attract a great number of visitors through out the year. The tours are informative and educational for young and old and turning sails add greatly to this experience. People enjoy the mill in its environment and surrounding. The open days are organised by the owner and a team of volunteers. The mill is even more unique because, as a frequently operated mill it will give the opportunity to educate the next generation of millers, educate the next generation of millwrights and educate the visitors. So its current preservation of its environment and surroundings are of the greatest importance and of significant educational value for future generations.
3. A running mill requires less maintenance and is cared for better. It's a well known fact that machinery that isn't used deteriorates quicker than if it was used. Berkswell windmill is no exception, if the mill is not operated, especially the wooden sails, cap and rotating parts, it will suffer greatly being constantly stationary. In the rotating wheels for example, it will prevent or stop woodworm, stop water collecting in the sails. So for preservation of the older parts of the mill the operation of the mill is vital. A mill in a build up area will not only suffer from the lack of inflow and out flow of air, but also suffer and damage from the negative effects of turbulence that new buildings will create. Therefore its preservation of its current surroundings and environment are of the greatest importance.

I am the miller/ millwright of the mill and with the on-going proposal I feel not enough consideration is given to the negative impact on the mill as listed above. The mill is so much more as a static

building and its preservation of its surroundings and environment should be valued equally as important for its preservation. I would also encourage that the Dutch research carried out by "De Hollandse Molen" into the arrangement and of the surroundings of a windmill is used as a guideline for any development plans around the mill to minimise the impact. This research clearly shows the negative impact in airflow and increase in turbulence on the mill if building development takes place in its vicinity and recommends the allowable distances from the mill in correlation to the height build to maintain an optimum airflow to the mill.

I hope that this is sufficient information at this moment in time, however if further information is required do not hesitate to contact me:

Yours Sincerely

Johan Vanderstelt

Miller of Berkswell windmill

120 Gospel End Road

Gospel End Village

DY34AN