

To the planning department.

I would like to strongly object to the hugely disproportionate number of houses planned for Blythe:-Ref BL1 BL2 & BL3 and the negative impact it would have on our neighbourhood.

The current plan contains a huge amount of data (a lot of which has been recently added or amended) which all needs to be carefully analysed and absorbed before any objection takes place so I would be interested to know why the consultation period is for such a short period of time? Therefore, in order for all data to be thoroughly considered this consultation period needs to be extended.

The previous Dickens Heath and Cheswick Green developments have already caused major stresses on our existing infrastructure with the roads unable to cope with capacity. Personally, for me to get onto Tanworth Lane on a weekday morning the queues are already excessive due to the high volumes of traffic heading towards either the Stratford Road or to get to the M42, Solihull or Shirley via Blackford Road/Dog Kennel Lane. I am unaware of any plans to build any new roads/routes to ease these current problems, let alone the queues that would inevitably be increased with the current building proposal.

The additional volumes of traffic created in this one area do not reflect the current ambitious aims of the Government to become a greener society. It is fair to assume with the lack of public transport and cycle lanes unfeasible that car usage will be increased to gain access to the M42 and the new HS2 hub.

The facilities offered by Solihull hospital have recently been downgraded such that if I needed to go to A&E, for example, I would have to drive to Heartlands Hospital. So, even before the new development gets the go-ahead, the NHS services available are reduced and yet you are planning to significantly increase the potential demand onto a reduced service?

Currently I have to wait at least 90 minutes on the phone before I get to even speak to anyone at the doctors surgery, let alone book an appointment to speak to a doctor. Pre-Covid this service was not so poor but as SHP have had at least 9 months to sort out this problem they would clearly be unable to expand their service for any greater volumes of patients.

Also, because of planning permission being granted to retirement developments, in Shirley particularly, the demand on the Doctors and NHS healthcare will be even greater than a population with a younger community.

Our area is unable to cope with the current levels of demand for public healthcare and I am also unable to sign up to get an appointment with a NHS dentist so where will the new residents be able to receive dental care from?

There must be other opportunities to distribute the density of housing proposed around the borough without clogging up an already over built up area that need to be considered and pursued?

Had the council not sold off all potential housing opportunities to developers to build retirement homes -resulting in Shirley having the reputation of being 'Gods waiting room ', car showrooms and charity shops you would not need to be putting forward this excessive Blythe proposal?

Covid has altered peoples working arrangements whereby significant numbers of people now work from home and it is thought that this will continue when Covid19 is no longer such a threat. As a result of this there will be excess office space that could be redeployed for housing developments?

Also, the High Street will have a significant number of empty units as a result of many companies going into administration- these must be potential housing development opportunities.

I would like to know that every alternative suggestion is thoroughly considered before even more of our green fields in Blythe are destroyed needlessly.

As far as I can see the developers are the only winners with this proposal, in line to earn an awful lot of money - Looking at the plans there is no way any locals could afford to buy these homes at starting prices of £277,000 (about 9 times the average salary).

I would also like to mention that during lockdown the number of local residents who benefitted from having access to these fields you want to build on was significant. Once the fields have been built on there is no going back.

I hope you take my objections seriously as I can genuinely see no positives to the neighbourhood I live in if these plans go ahead. If new developments are needed then they need to be shared fairly , not imposed on an already overstretched area.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Regards

Helen Blyth (Mrs)

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