

29th March 2016

North Dorset District Council

Re: Proposed Development for Land Beyond the Bypass

Dear Sirs

Our understanding was Blandford should stay contained within the bypass boundary. Does the land indicated in the plan showing proposed building not come under the parishes of Pimperne and Langton Long and in a designated area of 'Outstanding Natural Beauty'?

It will become an urban sprawl which spreads into the rural villages if building is started beyond the bypass, We have seen this happen before, it changes the whole character of the area which is the reason people live here in the first place and takes away the whole concept of 'countryside'.

The large number of houses proposed for the whole area of Blandford beyond the bypass not only at Letton will add to the ever growing amount of traffic which causes serious congestion and dangerous levels of pollution. The roads in the area were not designed to take the amount of traffic including the ever growing numbers of large lorries which struggle to negotiate our narrow winding roads.

Local health facilities in particular White Cliff Mill Street are already at saturation point, struggling to attract and retain Doctors. At the moment waiting time for a non emergency appointment is three to four weeks and a telephone consultation two weeks.

If we are to have hundreds more houses they should all be to accommodate local people, smaller properties of one, two and three bedroom houses or flats which younger locals could hopefully be able to afford, not only Social housing. We should be building Bungalows with one or two bedrooms for older local people to downsize into. At present with planning as it is most bungalows are being bought and converted into five or six bedroom properties which are no good to older people looking to move out of a bigger property.

Builders are only interested in building larger executive style properties which encourage more people into the area to buy 'second/holiday homes' or add to 'buy to let' portfolios. This does not help Dorset's local housing needs. More, larger properties = two or more cars per household thus adding to the already over crowded local roads and pollution levels. Most of these buyers will return to London or other larger towns where the work is after the weekend adding to the rush hour which starts just after 4am on a Monday morning. There are also knock on effects of having more cars on local roads apart from congestion and pollution, it also causes damage to road surfaces through the extra wear and tear. In the last eleven years we've lived in Blandford the traffic in this area has more than trebled.

Please take these comments into consideration when making your decisions.

Yours faithfully