

Our Ref: NP/2015/DP
Date: 9th December 2015

Dear Mr Kemsley

I write regarding your response to the Blandford + Draft Plan Consultation.

You may be aware that a Neighbourhood Plan also carries a democratic element, as ultimately the plan has to be voted in by the community, and therefore the need for a convenience store to serve residents to the north of the town forms part of the plan for the area and local people have made it very clear to the group how they wish to see the site developed. The group has noted your comments however and will consider this evidence, along with the need the local community considers need to be met, during the preparation of its Pre-Submission Plan.

Thank you for your comments regarding the proposed Visitor Centre, the group will assess the wording used in the final policy to ensure that this is made clear.

You may be aware that the premises which Morrisons occupy currently, stood empty for a number of months and this was detrimental to the town centre during that period. The group recognises the importance of Morrisons continued trade within the town centre, and values it, as well as its role in continuing to support the town centre as vibrant, but does not wish to see the premises remaining empty, as it did in the past, should anything happen at the premises during the plan period due to the changing shopping habits of customers.

The group are not adverse to considering changing this to a Primary Shopping Frontage, however would be grateful if you could please provide the group with reasons why you consider the premises must continue as a retail premises solely should Morrisons move on in the future. Additionally, the group would like to understand what effect being included in the Primary Shopping Frontage has on the store, and what effect it has if included in the Secondary Shopping Frontage as this would aid the group in making the final decision.

In relation to parking, the number of issues reported to the Town Council that relates to lack of parking has increased dramatically in the last year. Additionally it is considered that being able to park in any of the car parks, including on-street parking, and shop in Blandford Forum remains one of its strengths and the group therefore wishes to safeguard this.

Kind regards



Sara Loch
Chairman of Blandford +

