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15<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Mr Philip James  
Planning Policy Manager  
North Dorset District Council  
Nordon  
Salisbury Road  
Blandford Forum  
Dorset  
DT11 7LL

Dear Mr James,

**Ref: Proposed extension to the area for housing growth, south east of Blandford St. Mary.**

Following your letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> July 2015, I am writing to give you my opinion on the proposed area of extension as well as the existing area suggested for development.

The following are the reasons I oppose any development in this area:

- The area under consideration has several listed buildings within sight of the plan. Since the buildings will have an impact on these heritage assets, once completed the effect will be permanent and forever change how these treasures are perceived. Has the impact on these buildings been considered?
- At present, the main roads bordering this area are extremely busy and during the busy times of the day they struggle to cope with the current level of traffic. What is being put in place, before any development, to deal with this difficulty? Any building this side of the A354 would cause a hazard to road users and pedestrians as the entry onto the roads would inevitable be onto the A350 or A354 which do not have the capacity to cope.
- There is already an insufficient amount of schooling places, doctors, dentists in the area. Before any new housing is agreed it is necessary to fulfil the needs that already exist. The infrastructure, in terms of schools, health, public transport and roads, is inadequate for any further development in this village.
- Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been completed? If so, it should be clear there are far more appropriate sites for development in the area. There are sites, such as Black Lane, which will not feed directly into the A354 and will have less visual impact on the environment.
- Finally, Lower Blandford St Mary (historically Blandford St Mary) is not part of Blandford Forum. It seems that the town council wishes to incorporate the village into its boundaries. The by-pass (A354) was built to do as it suggests by-pass the town and it was said at the time that housing would not be considered in the proposed area. It is vital we protect the independence of each area and recognise the need to keep some parts of Dorset rural.

As an active member of the neighbourhood of Blandford St Mary, I feel the building already undertaken over the last few decades has rupture a once strong community. Further development would make the hard work of rebuilding a village identity near impossible for many more decades. Whilst this is not a consideration in accepting or refusing building plans, it is a reality that the people in the vicinity have to deal with and therefore should be mentioned.

Yours sincerely,

Miss A L Snook