



14th Sept 2015

Philip James
Planning Policy Manager
North Dorset District Council
Norden
Salisbury Road
Blandford DT11 7LL

Dear Mr James

Thank you for your letter of 24th July concerning the proposed extension to the area for housing growth in Blandford St Mary.

I would like to register my concern and objection to this **excessive amount of building on open countryside**. Such a huge increase of building in this village on top of the housing already built in the recent past would leave Blandford St Mary as nothing more than an enormous housing estate on the edge of Blandford. Surely building outside the by-pass is a bad idea.

Who are these houses for? Apart from the percentage of houses to be social housing, how many will be bought by local families and how many will be taken by people moving in to the area and commuting miles to work, moving here to retire or being bought to let out. **There is not enough work in the Blandford** area for a big increase in population, so are there plans to increase industrial building too? And if so, will these jobs pay enough to buy any of these houses? I am 30 years old and an university graduate and I have found that there are almost no graduate level jobs in the town or surrounding area and on my current wages there is no chance of me earning enough to afford these houses.

There would be an **increased risk of flooding** to Lower Blandford St Mary. At the moment after heavy rain this section of the A350 soon has large puddles at the side (I have several times been soaked by vehicles splashing through them), and surface water runs freely down Church Lane. I have often seen water pouring down Wards Drove onto the A350. If this large area is built on, then water will not be able to soak away and must increase significantly the risk of flooding. Will the Council accept responsibility should this happen?

Roads and services. The A350 is already very busy and would be made so much worse. I regularly walk to work in Blandford and find the A350 and the bypass can be incredibly busy and regularly have to wait for a car to stop to let

me cross. It would be terribly dangerous for all the new residents who will all need to get to Blandford for all their needs – schools, shopping, surgeries etc.

A recent planning proposal stated that villagers in Lower Blandford St Mary felt cut off from Blandford – that is not a negative thing. This is a country village not a suburb.

Yours sincerely,



Alexandra Willatt.