

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PlanningPolicy](#)  
**Subject:** FAO Mr Philip James (Planning Policy Manager)  
**Date:** 16 September 2015 12:00:06

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Dear Mr James

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

It was with utter dismay that I read of this proposed extension to housing, and as a resident of Lower Blandford St Mary, I would like to express my concerns in the strongest possible terms.

I have lived in Lower Blandford St Mary for the last 17 years, and have raised my growing family of three children here. I bought the property because of the fabulous views and the 'village feel' of Lower Blandford St Mary, which is a small community within itself. As the family have grown, we have resisted the temptation to move to a larger house because of the very essence of our small community. The area has always felt safe, and my children have spent many happy hours of their childhood scooting up and down the Lane.

I am devastated by the proposal to extend the housing development westward to Ward's Drove. I understand that the 'Blandford share' of proposed new homes is some 1200 houses with 395 affordable homes. If your map is to scale, it would appear that a large majority will be within the new proposed boundary to Blandford St Mary.

Obviously the council will be aware of the pressure that such a large development will put on local infrastructure. As a Doctor myself, I know that current levels of patients are already overwhelming. Surgeries are outdated and doctors, practise nurses and health visitors are barely coping. As a Governor at one of our local primary schools, I also know that the school systems are barely managing with current numbers, despite changes to most schools with the abolition of the middle schools. It has taken over seven years for the opening of the new school buildings in Pimperne. Is North Dorset Council really going to agree to further extensions of recently extended schools, to allow for the inevitable influx of school-age children?

Over the past few years I have started my school-run in the mornings earlier and earlier. The reason for this is the complete nightmare of trying to get out of the end of Church Lane onto the A350, due to sheer volume of traffic. These access problems will be immeasurable with the proposed increase in housing. Church Lane is already used as a 'rat run' for drivers trying to avoid hold-ups, and the Lane has definitely become less and less safe for children due to speeding drivers. The obvious Health and Safety aspects, for children and elderly residents could not be more clear.

I feel that Lower Blandford St Mary will be subsumed by the proposed new developments, and all that we hold dear in our small community will be lost. The original plans to develop much more suitable sites to the North and West of Blandford Forum, which remain within the bypass, seem to have been overlooked, and I would urge the leaders of the Planning Team to urgently reconsider these options.

Yours sincerely

Dr Ann Dewar