



NORTH DORSET
DISTRICT COUNCIL

03 SEP 2015

POST ROOM

23rd August 2015.

Dear Mr James,

I am writing to object strongly to the proposed extension to the area for housing growth, south east of Blandford St Mary.

Some years ago it was stated by NDDC that development south of the by-pass would not take place. The new local plan breaks this promise, further development as proposed by the extension would further render such statements as even less reliable.

My concerns relating to the proposed extension are as follows:

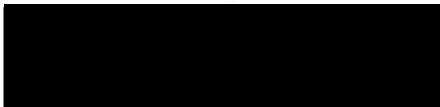
1. It was originally proposed in the structural plan the development on the hill south of the by-pass would be visible from a wide area and as such intrusive. Further development would exacerbate this with destruction of the landscape and light pollution by night.
2. Much to the dismay of the inhabitants, Blandford St Mary has expanded as an overflow for Blandford Forum with a high proportion of social housing. There has been little attempt to mitigate the detrimental effect this has had on the village – no road improvement, no village centre, etc. Further development would only make this situation worse.
3. Blandford Forum is currently experiencing an overload on its services in the town – long waiting times for the doctor, poor customer service at the chemists, parking, etc. This development would make this worse.
4. This proposed extension will affect negatively the independence and quiet that Lower Blandford St Mary currently enjoys. It is not wanted here.
5. Exiting Church Lane is becoming increasingly hazardous. Further development will increase traffic on the A350 which will make getting onto the main road even more hazardous.
6. Wards Drove, alongside which the proposed extension will run, retains a significant flora and fauna of the chalk soils. It had, in 2014, over 90 plant species and at least 14 species of butterflies. It is also

available as the only truly rural footpath in the village. The amenity value of this important asset of Blandford St Mary would be significantly affected by this extension and any reduction of biodiversity a serious loss to the village.

7. This proposed development is too far from Blandford Forum for many people to walk. Development nearer the town centre would allow greater pedestrian access to the shops in the town, reduce the need for further town parking and encourage shopping in Blandford rather than further afield.

I trust that you will give due consideration to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Bruce Willatt.

Bruce Willatt.