

Date

The Planning Officer
RVBC

HAL2 - Proposed allocation of land in Wilpshire

Dear Sir,

My wife and I previously responded in 1917, objecting to the proposed change in designation of this land as suitable for housing development. We understand that it is now so designated and that the Council's recommended housing allocation is in the region of 30 homes. We have also read Miller's proposals for a much larger development.

We would like to reiterate our reasons for still believing that the plot is unsuitable for housing development :-

We have lived at the above address for almost 50 years. The rear boundary of our property (approximately 50 m) adjoins and overlooks the plot. Generally we are not in favour of development for good reasons apart from NIMBYism. I hope that we can make some constructive comments regarding potential problems in developing the site.

1) Increase in Population of Wilpshire

a) Schooling

St Peters School Salisbury is the nearest primary school and it is already under pressure. Proposed cuts in funding will cut spending and reduce the number of teachers.

b) Traffic

Traffic on the A666 outside our house is increasing all the time. Cars are in a stationary queue at school opening time. At other times the 30 mph speed limit is neither observed nor enforced. It is also a busy route for ambulances and emergency vehicles, particularly at weekends.

2) Access

There is the problem of access to the site via Salesbury View and underneath the high tension cables. Although this is not insuperable you may be interested to know that a few years ago we had a letter from a National firm of builders. They were interested in buying our property to create access to the field without the problem of the pylons

We were not interested then and are not interested now!

3) Drainage

This is an extremely wet and badly drained field. Older inhabitants, long dead, told us that the problem dates from the filling in of the old quarry at the top of Hollowhead Lane. In our own time we witnessed the problems in building the Wilpshire Banks development with Caterpillars bogged down over the winter and streams appearing in the foundations. More recently the building of two houses in the grounds of The Knolle resulted in gullies on the A666 being blocked repeatedly by silt over a two year period.

It seems likely that development of this site would be attended by similar problems and inconvenience to local inhabitants both in the short and longer terms.

4) Wild Life

We are not expert naturalists but, over the years, have observed a variety of wildlife in the field. At present we are hearing curlew and pheasants as well as the usual birds. Deer occasionally appear from the valley of Showley Brook (which would also be endangered by development).

On summer evenings the bats put on a fly-by at the back of our house. They must be roosting nearby.

It is also obvious, from observing ducks, geese and herons in flight, that there is a green flight path from Parsonage and Dean Clough reservoirs over to Wilpshire Bottoms towards the River Ribble. This would be endangered by urban development.

In conclusion we hope that these observations will be helpful in coming to a decision and submit that housing development on this site would be a mistake both in the short and in the long term.

Yours sincerely

