

SIR WILLIAM CASH, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Simon Baker,
Chief Executive,
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council,
Moorlands House,
Stockwell Street,
Leek,
Staffs,
ST13 6HQ

Wednesday 20th September 2017

Dear Mr. Baker,

RE: Planning Application SMD/2017/0512 for the development of 118 dwellings

On behalf of my constituents I am gravely concerned and wish to register my objection to the above planning application. The proposal for building 118 houses on this green land at the A50 junction, on top of the large development already approved for Blythe Park of 170 houses, will destroy the landscape and negatively impact upon the local environment and wildlife.

On the matter of existing highways and road infrastructure, I am concerned for the high volume of additional traffic that will be generated by the proposed development. Blythe Vale Phase 1 is for 118 dwellings which could be expected to generate at least 2 cars per household, while Phase 2 will take that additional number to 300 houses, which will equate to an additional 600 cars using the A50 and Blythe Bridge/ Draycott infrastructure. I object on the basis that the increased traffic on the A50 and adjoining roads in addition the dangerous location of the planned entrance to this estate impacts upon nearby constituents in terms of their health and wellbeing, the noise pollution, light pollution, congestion, increased travel time, speeding and vibration.

I have had testimonies sent to me already along Uttoxeter Road that residents have needed to replace their garden wall at huge cost because of the vibration from HGVs and cars speeding past their properties. During the recent A50 closure, HGV traffic has caused ornaments to vibrate and move on the window sill of nearby properties. There is already a number of recorded accidents at Blythe roundabout, the A50 and surrounding roads, demonstrating that the roads are at maximum capacity.

Even at the current levels, the traffic congestion can mean that cars and HGV's will queue at the roundabout for a minimum of 15 minutes, sometimes for 25 minutes. When my constituents eventually do reach the A50, it is at a standstill or very slow moving from Checkley onwards to the 1st Uttoxeter roundabout. The proposal for

further housing development with another 600 cars, plus the extra 200 additional cars from the Blythe Park development at Cresswell creates an unmanageable situation.

The expected pollution, noise and diminution of quality of life will not only affect residents of Draycott and Blythe Bridge, it will also affect those living in Cresswell, Forsbrook and Hilderstone, as drivers turn to short cuts which will be sought by frustration. The Council must take reasonable steps to ensure that the health and safety of all nearby residents within the area is not compromised or put at risk. The existing properties will be exposed to the noise and traffic vibration which is already making for an unpleasant experience for nearby residents when sitting outside in the garden, walking the dog and sleeping with windows open.

In this case, the roads and infrastructure are strongly interdependent with other nearby sites. Many residents of Draycott and Blythe Bridge purchased properties in the area because of the rural location and close proximity to green fields. They chose those properties because of the closeness to nature, open spaces and a traffic free zone and promotes a family friendly healthy lifestyle which protects physical health and mental wellbeing.

The road from Draycott into Blythe Bridge where all amenities for the village are situated such as schools, shops, library, post office etc is already badly congested due to parked cars and the width of the road. An increase in traffic will make the road impassable and will be detrimental to those living on the main road.

The proposed development will destroy a beautiful natural and diverse area with ponds and associated wildlife. The fields at the side of the A50 are currently home to a wide range of wildlife. My constituents have told me that along the footpaths though the site, they have seen deer, birds, rabbits, hares, squirrels, voles, newts, woodpeckers, door mice, herons, foxes and badgers. There is no other habitat they could go to if the development is permitted. The proposed development is a very obtrusive development, which would be to the permanent detriment of the rural landscape. The attractiveness to the area and through the footpaths will of course be lost when a large housing development is built.

It is not clear in the Staffordshire Moorlands why it appears that Blythe Bridge, Draycott and Cresswell are being given so much housing developments in relation to the size of their respective settlements. Draycott and Cresswell are classed as Hamlets – and as such the housing allocation for new build developments should be in relation to that.

On behalf of my constituents, and the representations made by my constituents, I would be grateful if you would register my objection to the application.