

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL



Councillor Jonathan Shepherd
Chairman

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26th November 2020

Dear Planning,

Re; SMD/2020/0601

Mr R. Simister, The Cedars, Cedar Hill, Alton.

Alton Parish Council would like to strongly object to this application for the following reasons.

This land adjacent to the stone farmhouse is visible from much of Alton. The current low-level grey farm buildings can be seen protruding into the landscape however they are not considered to be an eyesore due to their muted colour, lack of lighting and that some of them are single story. If this site were to be developed with modern housing, then the visible intrusion into the natural landscape would be unacceptable for Alton residents.

SMDC Planning has recommended that land directly opposite this site at Battlesteads, (SMD/2019/0555) should be refused as it would cause detrimental harm to the landscape character. This proposals at The Cedars would be far more detrimental than 0555 as it is visible from much of Alton. It will also be clearly visible from Toot Hill, a beauty spot in the conservation area owned by the National Trust only two fields away.

Policy DC3 of The Local Plan states that you should resist development which would lead to a prominent intrusion into the countryside or have a significant adverse impact on the character or setting of a settlement or important views into or out of the settlement.

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Policy SS8 says that you should: Protect and enhance the setting and historical character of the village.

The historical character and setting of Alton will be severely harmed should this land be developed.

The proposals are for three, 4+ bed houses. No smaller houses have been built in Alton for many years. These larger houses are not what Alton needs.

SMDC has granted permission for over 50 new houses to be built in Alton within the last 5 years. Alton has reached the point where it is losing its village feel. Business premises and shops have been closed and change of use to residential status has been granted. No new business premises have been created.

There is still no bus service to or from Alton and it is unlikely that there ever will be a regular service reinstated. All the residents from these properties have to drive out of Alton for work.

Policy C1 states: Only permit new development where the transport and community infrastructure necessary is available or will be made available by the time it is needed.

Policy SO2 states: The development should help to mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

Building large houses where people are solely reliant on the motor vehicle does not support these policies.

If the farm buildings are demolished, then it would be the loss of another business opportunity for future generations who may inherit this site.

Yours faithfully,

Selwyn Burton
Clerk to Alton Parish Council