

Wiltshire Council

Strategic Planning Committee

11 December 2019

From Nicola Lipscombe

Chair Salisbury Area Greenspace Partnership

Questions

1. In the face of the Climate Emergency, will Wiltshire Council reconsider large scale peripheral housing developments unless there is a very strong commitment to providing new and significantly improved cycling & walking routes from day one to key destinations? Can we be assured that the problems at Longhedge & Fugglestone Red where residents have not only been socially isolated but have been forced to use their cars or walk along roads because of the lack of any proper links with the existing community will be avoided for all developments in future? This is clearly not acceptable from a safety point of view & we know that road traffic & transport are responsible for more than 25% of greenhouse emissions in the UK which are continuing to increase. Will a much more sustainable & more carbon neutral approach to the development of edge of town sites & also to their layout & design be pursued in line with the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 & the Government's Planning Guidance?

2. Will the concept of green infrastructure be considered by the planning officer and by County Highways particularly in relation to achieving good connectivity for major developments as it is in many other authorities around the country?

3. Will Wiltshire Council's landscape & design officer report on the impact of all new major housing developments?

Responses

1. The proposed development at Harnham complies with the requirements of the NPPF in that there will be two cycling/walking routes off the site when built one of which is already in place at the front of the site and will therefore be available as soon as the dwellings are first occupied. There is an urgent need to meet the deficit in housing supply that exists in South Wiltshire and this development will provide dwellings on a scale that cannot be achieved on existing brownfield land closer to the city centre.

2. The site provides significant green infrastructure including a country park of some 10 hectares and it is considered that the amount of green infrastructure provided with this development is sufficient to meet residents' requirements.
3. Wiltshire's landscape officer has commented on the application and her comments are contained within the officer's report.