

Councillor Pippa Corney
Portfolio Holder Planning Policy
South Cambridgeshire Hall
Camborne Business Park
Cambourne
CB23 6EA

Dear Councillor Corney,

I am writing on behalf of Sawston Parish Council to request that you reconsider the proposal to approve development of 540 additional dwellings for Sawston.

Although we understand the significant housing requirement in the Cambridgeshire area and appreciate the challenge of identifying appropriate locations for this housing, we believe the proposal for Sawston is not in the best interests of the community for the following reasons:

1. Integration with the existing village

The proposed number of new houses is out of proportion with the existing village, increasing the number of houses by approximately 18%. Given the size and location of the proposed new houses, it will be difficult to integrate with the existing village which is a considerable distance apart.

2. Exponential increase in traffic

We believe the proposal will provide an exponential increase in traffic in and around Sawston which is damaging to the culture of the village and will prove challenging to manage with the existing infrastructure.

Our information suggests the proposal would generate at least 2,100 additional traffic movements on to Babraham Road every day between 7am and 7pm, equating to an average of 175 car movements every hour rising to 260 to 290 vehicles per hour at peak times'.

3. Impact on local amenities

It is the view of Sawston Parish Council that the village's existing amenities are already over subscribed and therefore not capable of supporting the proposed increase in housing.

I also note that there is insufficient car parking in Sawston for the existing users of the High Street and it is physically impossible to increase the amount of parking in the centre. As such the significant increase in housing

proposed would place under great stress the car parking and likely result in users being put off from utilising the High Street and instead driving to retail outlets outside the village where access is easier. Sawston Parish Council is concerned about the success of the High Street, which along with many other High Streets in the country, is under pressure from out of town retail parks. We note that the regeneration of the High Street is considered an important factor by Keith Miles as a proponent of the new housing, however it is our view that the new housing proposed would do the opposite and cause distress to the High Street businesses.

4. Loss of Green Belt land

Sawston Parish Council support the designation of Green Belt land in its use in protecting the culture, nature and environment of England. We are therefore deeply concerned that the proposal for new properties in Sawston is approximately 60% on land designated as Green Belt.

Sawston Parish Council consider that the concerns noted above are reflective of the majority of Sawston residents. I note that Councillor Pippa Corney recently addressed the proposal for Sawston to hold the Cambridge City football stadium. The proposal was rejected based on residents' opposition to the development and concerns over the use of Green Belt land. Sawston Parish Council therefore hopes that these same considerations are made with respect to the proposal for new housing in the village.

Sawston Parish Council is fully supportive of sustainable new housing and we believe that site option 5 (rear of Dales Manor Business Park) is considered over the new proposal. We believe that site option 5 is a far more suitable proposal given it is a Brownfield site inside the village framework and it is supported by the village residents - results of the public consultation showed that 50% representations supported Site option 5, while for sites 6, 8 and 9 representations in support were only 33%, 17% and 15% respectively.

I hope that you will consider the issues raised in this letter and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these further with you.

On behalf of Sawston Parish Council

Eugene Murray
Chairman