

Dear Mr Jones,

Affordable Housing at Low Close, Little Eversden

I understand that Liz Heazell has told you of the very great distress and anger in the Eversden villages about the planning decision that the Affordable Houses being built in Little Eversden should be intended as a priority for residents only of Little Eversden and that residents of Great Eversden are not to be equally eligible. In the absence of the PC Chairman, Clive Dalton, she has suggested that I write to tell you of our very great concern.

As I expect you know, the Eversdens have had a joint Parish Council since 1945. Our Housing Sub-committee has two members from each village.

In 2005 this project for low cost housing began because we heard that David Ellis a local farmer was willing to sell some land in Little Eversden. Liz Heazell encouraged us to explore the possibility with Nene Housing Association. At that time the Housing Needs survey showed that there were over 20 potential applicants between the two villages. We held a Public Meeting with residents of both villages on 18.4.06 where it was agreed that the best way to provide for these needs would be to build 10 houses in each village. Low Close in Little Eversden could be started as soon as agreement could be reached, but OSP148 in Great Eversden was not yet available.

On 23.5.06 the four members of the housing committee and Liz Heazell met with you and Denise Lewis to discuss these plans and were warmly encouraged to proceed. On 23.11.06 we had a further meeting at SCDC and on 30.11.06 we had a meeting at SCDC with Paul Sexton. Minutes of all these meetings were sent to all participants. At no time was it suggested that residents of the Eversdens were to be considered separately.

The Parish Council was not consulted about the wording of the application for Planning Permission and we were appalled to discover this spring that only residents of Little Eversden were to be eligible for priority for the ten houses at Low Close. Clive Dalton wrote to Paul Sexton to ask for a Deed of Variation to restore the original intention of the Parish Council, but he was told that this could not be supported because separate housing surveys had been carried out in the villages.

As you can imagine, we all feel very strongly that this decision, while it may or may not be legally correct, puts bureaucracy before justice. We have all worked for years on the assumption that the low-cost houses were for both villages. David Ellis who sold the land and has donated the proceeds to the Village Recreation Ground is particularly upset that one village has been excluded and we all hope that it is will be possible to put right this mistake.

I am very willing to provide you with any more documentation from the Parish Council. Clive Dalton will not be back until 8th or 9th August, and we have our next Parish Council Meeting on 10th August. I do hope very much that you can help us in this unhappy situation.

Yours,

Carol Handley
Vice-Chair of Joint Great and Little Eversden Council.
44 High Street, Little Eversden, Cambridge CB23 1HE