

The Cirencester Park Community Group  
c/o Steven Goldblatt  
1 The Mead  
Cirencester  
GL7 2BB

By: E-Mail

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planning@cotswold.gov.uk  
The Cotswold District Council

I write in response to your letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> August in my capacity as chairperson of the Cirencester Park Community Group (“the Group”).

This response and the response of our members should be regarded as an “objection to the scheme” as presently formulated.

As you might know the Group convened a meeting of Cirencester residents to discuss aspects of the Local Plan and more particularly the proposed development of a strategic site at Chesterton Farm (“the Chesterton development”) on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

The meeting was attended by some 370 people.

We understand that the Cotswold District Council (“the CDC”) will consider the formal adoption of the Chesterton development its entirety on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

We would like to address the CDC meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September to make the points set out below which arose, principally, at the public meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

The Group, at this stage, would like to appeal to each and every member of the CDC, no matter party / political affiliation or constituency to consider the following points which were forcefully made at the residents meeting.

**Consultation**

The broad community of Cirencester felt that it had not been properly or adequately consulted on the local plan. In so far as concerns were raised these have generally been ignored.

**Bulk Infrastructure**

The application for the Chesterton Development does not properly or adequately address the impact that it will have on existing infrastructure and resources (if implemented). Of particular concern was the issue of roads, highways, access routes and parking.

**Community Resources**

If implemented the meeting was concerned about provision of busses, shops, schooling, medical facilities and other amenities to residents of the strategic site in a

manner that takes into account the envisaged gradual development of the strategic site.

The meeting loudly supported the suggestion of Christine Gore, the Strategic Director of the CDC that the oversight body that will monitor delivery of such resources, community amenities and bulk design decisions would be broadened to include community members.

### **Flawed data and non-existent data**

Save Our Cirencester presented evidence that certainly in respect of anticipated vehicle movements the local plan was based on information that was both out of date and in part involved projects from irrelevant samples. Christine Gore undertook to raise this. As far as we have been able to determine this “new information” has not been included in the bundle of documents before you.

Save Our Cirencester raised serious concerns about the lack of information about pollution that would be generated by additional vehicle movements particularly those near to major roundabouts and traffic lights which are close to schools, old-aged facilities and the ancient fabric of the town

### **Process**

Making a decision on this application in advance of the approval of the local plan seems absurd and might have the effect of frustrating the Inspectors' remit of examining the local plan in its entirety. After all if the CDC approves up to 2350 houses for the Chesterton Site it pre-empts and thus makes a nonsense of the Inspectors' work.

In conclusion we as a Group would like to thank you for giving serious consideration to this letter.

Through engagement in the process we as members of civil society have hopefully learned lessons that will enable us to intervene meaningfully in the development of this and future local plans.

Yours sincerely

Steven Goldblatt