

From: Julie Walton
Sent: 23 December 2022 10:55
To: gavin.williamson
Cc: External Email for Local Plans <localplans@sstaffs.gov.uk>
Subject: Wombourne Housing Proposal

Dear Sir Gavin Williamson

I write to you directly as I have found the process of working through the South Staffordshire CC web site incredibly stressful and I consider this to be a deliberate act.

Living in close proximity to the village green. I can reliably state that there has been a dramatic increase in the traffic and congestion in the village centre and surrounding area.

Having lived in Walk Lane for 38 years I feel I am well qualified to notice the changes in the area.

The "Lane" is now, more than ever, a cut through to avoid the centre of the village. We are subject to speeding vehicles and inappropriate parking from residents and non residents.

Is this due to the fact that there is not enough suitable parking in the village perhaps, with the added factor of no deterrents? Irresponsible and illegal parking is commonplace and we regularly have instances of disabled, visually impaired people and moms with pushchairs, forced to walk in the road to avoid vehicles. I have watched fire engines, and the occasional bus, go down the road only to find cars parked on a corner or on double yellow lines. How can this not be taken into consideration and agreed, surely, this is something that should be carefully looked at and investigated in the so-called "soundness" of the planning?

The Police are not interested in parking problems that cause obstructions and the Enforcement Teams want specific times of when incidents occur. Am I allowed to take photographs of the dozens of cars that are parked illegally causing obstructions? I doubt it! Will an injury or death make any difference, to be honest, I doubt it! Walk Lane and the village centre, over the years have had properties built with little or no regard for residents or the historical setting of Wombourne village.

The village cannot withstand more traffic from all of these proposed housing sites. I use a term taken from the Parish Councils objection that many roads are " little more than cart tracks" which is perhaps more true than they meant when you consider the quality of the roads and pavements in the local vicinity! Again how can the "soundness of these investigations be correct when the infrastructure is so poor?

The area does need more affordable housing but again I see little evidence of this in any of the recent estates built. My own children have had to move out of the area.

The new housing estates at Himley and Fletchers Rise have had such a dramatic impact on the area let alone the already overstretched public services? E.g. Doctors, chemists, dentists and hospitals to name but a few!

The parking provisions in these new estates are, quite frankly, laughable! The majority of the houses do not have enough parking space on their properties to park 2 vehicles. No guessing where the work van or young adult's car is parked?

Flooding has always been an issue in Wombourne and the Gilberts Lane area, is quite frankly a joke. I read how the builders have/will put in place ways of dealing with this. Sorry but this is an unbelievable statement!

Were you in post when the Round Oak in Wombourne was flooded? I would be very interested to hear who paid for the alterations to the bridge and the area around the site after the estate was built. Was it the developers or was the charge picked up by the Local council funded by council tax payers?

I consider there is little to negate the impact of climate change, and the protection of wildlife in these plans. I thought the Conservative Government was going to protect our Green Belt, climate and wildlife etc. I see little evidence of any of this in these proposals? Incredibly, South Staffs seems to want to continue with these projects, knowing full well that other local authorities have pulled building projects in their areas due to strong feeling from the local residents and the lack of evidence to substantiate the mass building projects.

Having gone through some of the documents to the best of my limited ability, I feel that South Staffordshire Council have had a deliberate reluctance to notify residents in a timely or suitable way. Bearing in mind that the population in Wombourne comprises a significant number of elderly residents. The number of properties proposed through this Local Plan will have a detrimental effect on the area and put immense pressure on the already overstretched services provided by the Local Authority and they have a duty and obligation to its residents.

I commend some of the Wombourne Parish Councillors who have worked hard to put forward the official objections on behalf of the people they represent. However, it is a pity that not all of the Councillors have such strong feelings on such an emotive subject. One can only assume their reason for not doing so!

I trust that you will argue our case in any debate that you are able to attend and make our thoughts and concerns known.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and lets hope we can all have a little more to look forward to in the New Year!

Yours faithfully

Mrs Julie Walton