

Sent: 28 January 2013 13:01
To: Programme Officer
Cc: Thornbury Town Council
Subject: CORE STRATEGY INQUIRY RE-OPENING

Dear Ms Thorne,

I wish to object most strongly to the additional 300 dwellings proposed off Morton Way, Thornbury. The 500 already planned at Park Farm are almost certainly a step too far and this last-minute additional proposal of almost as many again is totally indefensible.

As former Town Clerk of Thornbury I am fully aware of the work that has been done by local councils and the community to develop a Core Strategy that includes a very large number of new houses but that is still largely acceptable to most people and also the work that went into earlier strategies and Local Plans. To make an addition at this stage of this magnitude cannot be right, cannot be fair and cannot be justified.

When Morton Way was first planned it was intended that it should form the boundary between new development and open countryside and this boundary role and status has been confirmed and protected in every local plan and strategy since. To breach that boundary now would be to open floodgates in planning terms and it would make it virtually impossible to prevent further urban sprawl towards the A38.

Thornbury is a town renowned for its character. The proposals for Park Farm will have limited detrimental effect on that character but the same cannot be said for the Morton Way proposal. Its effect on the character of the approaches to the town would be severe.

The 500 dwellings already planned for Park Farm will place considerable stress on local facilities and infrastructure, in particular roads, car parks (spaces already being lost at Castle Court), doctors and other local health and social services, community leisure, education and sports facilities, etc. etc. To increase that number to 800 could well lead to system failures.

I should be grateful if you could make my views known to the Inquiry Inspector.

George W H Jackson