

Dear Kath,

I have recently received the latest leaflet regarding the housing situation off of Morton Way which appears to have been published by a select group of the Thornbury town councillors. I say 'select' but in reality I guess I should be saying lib dem, as I noticed that none of the independent councillors have been included!

The main point of this email, is to express my total disgust at how the housing proposals for Thornbury have been dealt with.

First the town was given little opportunity to adequately comment on the original proposals, and only after a campaign from residents were the real details discussed. While the residents were indeed grateful finally for the opportunity to view the plans, it has become apparent that regardless of public opinion and common sense, the predominantly lib dem town council have refused to listen and have blindly gone on clearly afraid to consider they may have got things wrong and clearly unwilling to be seen to make a u-turn even though the residents would think more highly of them if they did so.

It is clear that in the early stages of discussions between the town council and Barratts, that other factors relating to the previous governments planning policies strongly swayed the decision for development in the Park farm site, however, such policies no longer exist and insistence in pursuing the original plans is blinkered and reflects badly on the town council.

During the original Morton Way developments of the 1980s infrastructure was included to allow for expansion to the outside of Morton Way including an underpass alongside streamside walk. The sites are not located in a flood risk area and present no impact on areas of historical impact or on the habitat of certain species which thrive around the medieval fishponds.

Our town council have long considered their plan as the least worst, however I would argue that least worst is having no development at all.

If Thornbury really must expand (something I would question strongly) then surely placing all the development infrastructure in one place would be the sensible way forward, rather than paying to have utilities expanded to multiple sites. On this basis if a new development is needed and the longer term view is that additional housing will be required on top of this, then I would highly recommend selecting a single expandable site.

It is clear that Morton Way offers a much more attractive proposition in this case.

Stop all the nonsense, admit that additional access from the A38 to a Morton Way development and utility deployment would be easier and have provision for the future, and forget Park farm.

Our town council complain of residents being NIMBYs, but I suggest you get a map of Thornbury and put a pin in the locations at which our councillors live. Funnily enough you will observe that few if any live in the area adjacent to Park farm, and most in fact live in the existing estates off of Morton Way. NIMBYism in our own elected council who are supposed to represent the wishes of the town but who are clearly only interested in their own personal wishes.

Arguments of distance to the town have been completely falsified. Residents on Park farm will only have vehicular access via Butt Lane and if our councillors think residents will walk, then they clearly don't know their residents. I regularly witness parents driving their children from their homes in the Primrose Drive estates off of Morton Way to Crossways school, which at most is a 5 minute walk. So please enlighten me as to why residents will be expected to ditch their cars and walk with their children 10-15 minutes into the town from Park Farm? Vehicular access from Morton Way into Thornbury will be just as quick as from Park farm, with the benefit of multiple routes to ease the traffic congestion. Butt Lane on the other hand will not only have a squeeze point at the junction with Gloucester road, but at peak times will also have to contend with the traffic from Oldbury Nuclear Power Station.

As a resident of a Morton Way estate, I am strongly in favour of development off of Morton Way, but this must be at the expense of the ridiculous plans for Park farm.

Best Regards

Paul Craig