

4<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Dear Sir

Thornbury and Morton Way North

We understand that you have agreed to hold a further inquiry into the further 800 houses which have been proposed for the South Gloucestershire area and to where these should be allocated if built.

We write to you to object to Morton Way being included as a possible site to accommodate 300 of these houses. We would also like to register our dismay that South Gloucestershire Councillors have seen fit to 'reluctantly' recommend Morton Way North as a suitable site when they have over the course of the Core Strategy Consultation process strongly opposed the development of this site. Their 'U' turn on this has gone against the Town Council, local Councillors and public opinion and the lack of public consultation is concerning.

We do not believe that Thornbury needs or can sustain this level of housing and that breaching the natural barrier of Morton Way will be detrimental to the character of the town and will open the flood gates to predatory developers in the future.

Thornbury is not unique in having an aging demographic and a decline in the local retailing sector and whilst it appears that we are to take some 500 houses at Park Farm in order to attempt to bring some regeneration to the area we believe that the proposal to build on Morton Way are flawed for the following reasons:

- The development of Morton way would alter the aspect of Thornbury from market town to urban sprawl which will be visible from miles around. Thornbury has always been proud of its historical past and market town feel, the development of Morton Way would ruin the Town's character and proportion.
- The location would not be suitable for young families or the elderly due to the distance to all amenities such as schools, health centres, shops etc. which are too far to walk; they will simply use cars and travel to The Mall to shop. Thus there will be no benefits felt on Thornbury's High Street. Perhaps smaller developments closer to the town centre would be more appropriate?
- Morton Way presently contains development with a natural barrier. Once this is breach there is nothing to prevent further development down Morton Way expanding the town further towards the A38 and further away from the town centre.

- There will be a loss of natural countryside footpaths adjacent to green fields and country side which provide a wealth of healthy leisure activities for families in the area.

- Excessive distances to schools will result in many more parents driving children to school resulting in additional peak-time congestion and increased safety hazards. These issues and the accessibility to the A38 will lead to new residents feeling detached from the town and a lack of social cohesion will result.

In conclusion we believe that any residential development over and above those agreed at Park Farm would be detrimental to the town and development beyond Morton Way should be resisted.

Yours faithfully

David and Susan Winfield