

**Sent:** 04 February 2013 16:31  
**To:** Programme Officer  
**Subject:** Houses on Morton Way

I am a bit of a pessimist when it comes to any Government action being changed by local views but never mind I give my support and views as follows.

I have lived at this same address at the Grovesend Road end (private houses) of Avon Way since I bought it in early 1966 that is forty eight years nonstop.

I have experienced how it is to live in an area of town with no amenities, onto which houses have been added over the years.

When I first moved in from ("up North") I got a very cold reception and to this day forty eight years later, it is like living in "no mans land" as there is no "Community" among neighbours who do not chat to other than their own families. If I died in this house where I live alone, I guess my body would remain un-noticed for months.

Cheap (so called "affordable") houses have been added to our area over the years and many are not occupied by the owners but by tenants who have not got the same interest in their area as owners. The road is a magnet for commercial vehicle operators who use a lay bye to park vans thus preventing residents of this road to use it.

The roads off Avon Way at this end are often nick named "shanty town" as many of the houses are badly maintained.

Why do I mention all this in connection with the new houses proposed?

Simple answer, as a warning as to what is likely to happen in the long run which happened in the sixties in Yate when they built Stanshawes Estate, often then nicknamed "Valium Valley" due to the many young women (incomers) were left at home with babies as their husbands went out to work and they simply got depressed and felt like outsiders, as to this day many do in this town.

In my opinion many who make decisions in Thornbury do not realise the reality of how Thornbury really is for some incomers.

I forecast from evidence of the past that the current residents of Morton Way will certainly not welcome the mass of incomers into their area and the traffic which comes with them, possibly around five hundred more cars parked, goodness knows where and who knows how many "commercial vans".

Here we go again just like "the past" if they are built, creating another remote and lonely area of town where people live without social contact other than their own family visitors from outside.

Part of my facts can be supported also by my own personal experience. I bought a property, upon divorce for my ex wife, in one of the roads off Morton Way (Morton end). Within two years she had moved out to live with her mother in another town and was selling her property at a loss, in her words "It was worse than Avon Way as no one has spoken to me spoke at any time". I can say in all honesty when she moved in with me, her main comments were "Why do neighbours not talk to anyone in this area?". I had similar comments when having lunch in a pub in Wotton under edge, a lady asked where myself and friend were from (he from Olveston). When I said Thornbury, she recoiled in horror and told me she suffered three years in this town (actually off Morton Way) and had moved out although could hardly afford it and now living in Charfield and it is lovely as folks talk to her. I chatted to a man from Liverpool; in a local supermarket to his surprise but I do work with the "media" so I do approach strangers. He was not only amazed but delighted and told me he had lived off Morton Way (near Primrose Close) for over four years and as yet no-one in the area has spoken to him, he told me he even sent out invitations to his barbecue and not one person turned up. I know for every one of my negative comments there will be those who say "Oh it's

lovely as all my neighbours chat to me" but that is not the general rule, just ask those who moved out and now live in more friendly areas.

The above situation is something which is giving this town a really bad image outside in other areas and that is not a myth it is absolutely true. We will get people buying these houses if they can afford it, simply to send their children to better schools. We will then end up with another lot of "permanent strangers" who will in time do their utmost to move out to a less insular place.

On the other foot, what is it going to do for the this town having all these new residents on what will appear to be a "transit camp". There will be hundreds more vehicles trying to get out of town at a rush hour when it is already bottlenecked. It is very unlikely that any of them will enhance the income for the appalling choice of local shops and no doubt will join the many who flock to Cribbs Causeway or Yate to do shopping where they have real choices of goods and a range of affordable prices.

In short the newly proposed houses may sell but the incomers could end up in the same state as many disappointed incomers to this town and eventually move out, which does nothing to build community..

Thornbury will suffer if this goes ahead, traffic congestion in town as folks look for parking spaces, bottleneck at exit points during rush hours at both ends of the day

If the land is going to be used for building why not take a leaf out of Yate's book and develop a genuine shopping area with National shops and a good choice of goods at affordable prices, rather than simply add "more of the same"... yet another optician opened opposite another optician around the corner from an optician and just how many places do we really need to drink coffee in a small town.

The entire project is "socially doomed" from the start, I have seen things try to take root here for forty eight years and then the instigators realise the folly only when it is too late.

Christopher Isherwood