

I would like to register my objection to the proposed development on Morton Way, Thornbury.

First of all I believe there is no evidence that Thornbury and the immediate area requires more housing, especially in light of the continued development between Filton Airport and Cribbs Causeway. The current local amenities are at capacity or over stretched, the proposed development will only exacerbate the situation.

The northern reaches of Thornbury are already poorly served by local services, which are situated in the High Street and the southern side of the town. The major supermarkets, and retail centres, the library, leisure centre, park and allotments are all out of reach of pedestrian access from the Morton area. It currently takes 30 minutes to reach Thornbury High Street by bus from Morton Way.

The proposed development can only serve to increase the vehicular traffic into Thornbury, or the location become so disconnected from that residents choose to visit the large retail centres in Bradley Stoke or Cribbs Causway. The inclusion of a shop in the application can only be considered as window dressing.

There is no pressing employment shortage within Thornbury that requires that new residents to move into the area, it therefore follows that any new residents will add to the existing commuter base that travels to Bristol. This will have a negative impact on the congestion leading out of town and the A38. Morton Way already suffers from problems off excessive speed and noise, the proposed development will only add to these.

Morton Way currently delineates the northern edge of Thornbury. The adjoining footpaths, lanes and countryside provide a priceless resource for recreation and exercise for residents. The proposed development would cross this particular Rubycon, led the way to unchecked spread of the conurbation and the permanent loss of prime agricultural land.

The development would destroy the character and attractiveness of Thornbury. It would have a large visual impact in the proposed location. Statements about green space within the development in no way answer this objection, as these invariable result in largely sterile green deserts devoid of wildlife. Whereas the development pays little attention to the potential impact on the nearby wild areas Longman's Grove, Cleve and Crossways Woods, sites designated SNCI (Special Nature Conservation Interest).

The only suggested rationale for the need of further housing centres on the under-utilisation of local schools. This is no principal to drive housing planning, especially when this is a temporary state of affairs and will eventually be rectified as an ageing population frees up more housing stock.

Further even if it can be shown that there is a need for new housing it should be within the existing town, in preference to green field site, and then a better location would be to the East or South of the town, placing any new development closer to the heart of the community, and within reach of the town centre by pedestrians.

There is no local support for the proposed development, indeed an overwhelming feeling against.

Andrew Pickin