

Dear Inspector in charge of the Core Strategy

I write to give you my views on the latest proposal for houses on Morton Way in Thornbury.

I am very dismayed to hear of the latest push to build an additional 300 houses on Morton Way. I, like the vast majority of other Thornbury residents, am very strongly opposed to this for a number of reasons, which have been aired before in the various planning debates of the last year or so. The main ones are as follows.

Thornbury is a historic town, with a particular character that is highly valued by its residents and others. Within the area of Thornbury, Morton Way is particularly strategic, as it forms a natural boundary to the town. Breaching this natural boundary could lead to further sprawl, which would be a disaster for the town and detrimental for the whole area.

The Thornbury infrastructure is not designed to cope with much more additional traffic and I am by no means convinced that any additional roads proposed would help to avoid congestion at pressure points in Thornbury and on the A38 towards Bristol. There would also be too much pressure put on car parks and other amenities.

There are already plans for additional housing in Thornbury and much work and consideration went into the original Core Strategy to arrive at these plans. To suddenly introduce new houses smacks of an ill-considered, last-minute, bolt-on solution to a problem which isn't even Thornbury's, as there is currently no need for these additional houses in Thornbury. If additional housing is needed in South Gloucestershire, then it would be far more sensible to look for appropriate sites at the point of need, so that people can stay close to their families and benefit from their support, which will reduce social problems further down the line.

The proposed site on Morton Way is a green field site and prime agricultural land. It is extremely short sighted and foolhardy to consider destroying this, given the likely pressure on our farmland in the future.

Finally, public feeling in Thornbury is so overwhelmingly against this proposal that it is tantamount to a breach of our democratic rights to try and force such an unwanted development on the town.

I do sincerely hope that you will reconsider this ill-advised plan.

Yours faithfully

Catherine Dack