

7 Feb 13

Dear Kath Thorne

The building of 300 houses outside of Morton Way makes no sense

I ask that the following be included when the Inspector takes all matters into consideration with respect to the siting of 300 additional houses in South Gloucestershire.

1. Thornbury Town Council planners have worked hard over recent years to prepare a viable, medium- to long-term Core Development strategy for the town. In doing so, they have gone to considerable lengths to inform and seek approval from both the people of the town and the South Gloucestershire Council planners. The resulting Core strategy, awaiting endorsement, is realistic and pragmatic, acknowledging the need for Thornbury to grow as part of South Gloucestershire community, but aiming to do so in a progressive, structured and balanced way that would preserve the essential nature of town as the central hub for the many surrounding rural communities. Retention of Morton Way as the development boundary to the north side of the town is central to that plan, and rightly so; once that boundary is breached, as no doubt, many developers would like, there would be no reason to doubt that, in due course, development would continue to expand in that area, with potential eventually to double, or even triple, the size of the town.
2. Thornbury has already agreed to shoulder a more than reasonable burden in the form of an additional 500 houses within the Park Farm area. The 1500+ residents of these houses (almost a 10% increase in the total population of the town itself), will place a considerable strain on the already stretched services within the town, such as health services (dental and doctors' surgeries), road capacity, schools, leisure centre, library, etc. Policing of Thornbury was recently significantly downgraded by removal of the police presence in the town. As far as I am aware, there is no commensurate intention for the development plans to enhance or extend any of these or even to return the police presence? The 900+ residents of yet a further 300 houses may considerably compromise such basic capabilities to deliver the levels of service expected.

In summary, I would urge you to conclude that 500 out of 800 new houses is enough for Thornbury, thank you. If the additional 300 are deemed essential for the county, please let another community in South Gloucestershire be allowed to respond to Thornbury's already high degree of compliance, by working to find another site, or even several sites, amongst them to absorb the 300.

Regards
Roger Clarke