

Dear Ms Thorne,

I am writing with regard to the application by Bloor Homes to build 3 houses on land at Morton Way, Thornbury. I wish to object to this application ahead of the re-opening of the public inquiry on 7th March.

Currently the boundaries of Thornbury are clearly defined, aiding the town's sense of social and business community. It has a town centre, which is the centre of the community, but is already struggling with competition from the larger shopping complexes, such as The Mall. This planning application, if successful, will accelerate the fragmentation of the community, resulting in Thornbury becoming a dormitory town for Bristol lacking its own identity.

The proposed site is considerably beyond the comfortable 15 minute walking criterion from the town centre, so that the only viable form of transportation for residents there will be the car. This will actively encourage them to use shopping facilities at The Mall and Bradley Stoke, for example, rather than local businesses. Parking in Thornbury is already being stretched by the forthcoming loss of spaces behind the Nat West bank, and there is insufficient facility to accommodate the number of extra cars in the town centre, driving trade out of town.

Approval of this application would only accelerate the problems above, as once such a site is approved in this area there will no viable grounds for the Council to object to further developments on land North of Morton Way, giving rise to a sprawl of housing towards the A38 with which the local infrastructure will be unable to cope.

Morton Way itself is not a big road, and the large amount of additional traffic will create congestion and health issues. In addition this is grade 2 agricultural land which would be permanently lost if this application is approved.

In conclusion, Thornbury survives and thrives by having a defined boundary and sense of community where local businesses and facilities are an essential part of the local life. Additional housing within the current boundaries can help to improve this, however if it is built outside of walking/cycling distance there will be drift away from the town with the loss of local business and employment and a significant increase in traffic. This site was already rejected as part of the Council's own initial Core Strategy, and I can see no reason for that to be reversed.

Your faithfully

Ian Cornes