

7 February 2013

Kath Thorne
Programme Officer
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Dear Ms Thorne

I am writing in support of the campaign to cancel the housing development proposed on Morton Way in Thornbury. I have many concerns about this over-development of Thornbury as follows:

1. Over-development – Thornbury is a lovely historic town with real character – this would be spoiled by this development. We have already been forced to go ahead with the building of 500 houses at Park Farm and this will put further pressure on services and utilities in the area. I understand from local opinion that the majority of Thornbury residents did not want this housing development at Park Farm but were unable to prevent it.
2. Business – Although business in St Mary's Centre is lacking this is mainly due to the greed of the owners who demand extortionate rents. Bringing more people into the area will not necessarily mean they will shop in Thornbury, most likely they will drive to Bradley Stoke and/or The Mall at Cribbs Causeway.
3. Traffic – Roads in and out of Thornbury are very congested already during the rush hour. The A38 going to Almondsbury Interchange is particularly bad and is more likened to a car park in the morning. Often traffic comes to a standstill at Alveston. Unfortunately, we do not have a policy in Thornbury as they do in Yate for example whereby local people only are considered for council jobs. This brings up a further point – often those making the decisions for Thornbury are not from the local area, they just commute in 5 days a week, adding to the road congestion. And most people living in Thornbury have to leave to work elsewhere.

4. Transport – The bus service is lacking – it is not a pleasant experience and not cheap either. The buses are old and the drivers unfriendly. This is probably due to lack of competition and that is why everyone uses the car to commute to work. I believe some of the land at Morton Way would be better suited to provide a Park'n'Ride service or a railway line into Bristol. With the possible closure of Tytherington Quarry this would be an ideal opportunity to consider the rail option.
5. Flooding – This is one of my main concerns. Currently the green fields where the housing development is proposed absorbs any excess rainfall. 2012 was one of the wettest years and these could continue. I am particularly concerned about flooding at the roundabout at the top of the High Street near Daggs Allotments which is a recent occurrence – not to be confused with the frequent flooding at the bottom of Thornbury Hill near the Leisure Centre/Golf Club entrances. I believe that if the housing development goes ahead we could see the lower end of Thornbury becoming flooded more often.
6. Utilities – building more houses will put added pressure on the provision of all utilities in the area, especially with the closure Oldbury Power Station. For many years the newer houses on Morton Way suffered power cuts. I can see this problem re-occurring.
7. Services – We have 2 main health clinics in Thornbury. Currently at Thornbury Health Centre a patient may have to wait 2-3 weeks to see a specific doctor. I have not heard of any plans to increase the size of either clinic or bring in more doctors! They cannot possibly take on another 250 patients each!

Please do not allow these additional 300 houses to be built otherwise it will be a precedent to build even more. Development will be out of control and historic Thornbury as we know it will disappear. We do not want to be turned into another sprawling development like Bradley Stoke.

Yours sincerely

Janet Wheeler