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## **Musbury**

### **Baxters Farm Development Brief**

#### **OBJECTION**

I wish to object to the possible allocation of land in this brief for a permanent travellers' site.

Notwithstanding the duty placed upon DCC with regard to travellers' sites in general and its preference to find sites closer to Exeter to meet the wider needs of the travelling community, like many others I am appalled by the suggestion that Musbury could be considered a possibility, simply because it is now classed as a 'sustainable' community. Indeed, if this suggestion was to bear fruit I suspect that within a very short space of time it could become anything but.

Whether or not one agrees with the need for any community to support the supposed needs of of travellers, it seems to me that they chose the lifestyle; it was not forced upon them. In this situation, it seems fundamentally wrong to expect the needs of a minority to override the ability of the majority to enjoy the village they have come to call home.

I therefore strongly object to such an inclusion on the following grounds:

- 'Sustainable' means only that something is capable of being sustained. Like many villages Musbury's community remains fragile. It will be many years before it is able to withstand substantial change, be it from the loss of shop, pub, school or church...or indeed the establishment of a permanent travellers' site at its heart.
- Musbury rightly cherishes its position within East Devon's AONB. Baxter's Farm lies within and immediately adjacent to Musbury's Conservation Area; ie that part of the village which is particularly deemed worthy of preservation.
- Is any developer likely to want to build new homes adjacent to a travellers' site?
- Is any buyer likely to want to buy such a new home?
- This site will be very close to Musbury's two largest businesses; the shop & the pub, the latter recently having undergone a substantial refurbishment. How would

this proposal affect these businesses and to what extent would existing customers choose to go elsewhere?

- The inclusion of a travellers' site in Musbury would inevitably have an adverse effect on local housing values, which in turn could lead to several existing residents choosing to leave and fewer wishing to replace them.
- Over the last 30 or so years, Musbury has transformed itself from a small, predominantly farming community to become one of the most desirable places to live in the Axminster area. In summary, I believe this proposal could lead to the heart literally being ripped out of this village. The community as it now stands would undergo significant change, we would fail to take full advantage of the opportunity now presented by Baxters Farm and no new homes would be built. But at least we'd have a travellers' site. Sheer madness.

