

From: Kate Baxter [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 January 2023 17:53
To: Planning Policy
Subject: Local Plan - Gittisham 5.

Categories: Reg.18 consultation

Dear Planning Team,

I am writing to object to the proposals outlined in the Local Plan - Gittisham 05.

There are a number of serious flaws with this proposal.

Firstly, the impact on the conservation area of Gittisham.

EDDC itself has recognised the uniqueness and importance of Gittisham village, as seen in its 5-year reviews of Conservation Areas where it states that even 'small' changes to the village would have a large impact on the appearance and character of this almost uniquely preserved estate village. It cites such small matters as road signs and visible electricity wires in the village having a detrimental impact on the attractiveness and setting of Gittisham, and yet the same EDDC is prepared to build so many houses so close to the village. It would simply destroy it and merge the village with Honiton.

It goes without saying that a housing development so close to the village would have a detrimental impact on the setting and environment of the village. It would be a travesty to destroy this village through increased traffic, road signs and so on. Once the houses are built, there is of course no undoing of the destruction. The village, mentioned in Domesday, would be forever altered. There would be no going back. Are there really absolutely no alternatives? Are we sure that is this the only place these homes could be built? Are we sure there is demand for the homes in this location? There are so few preserved estate villages with the cobb and thatch homes that Gittisham has. We should preserve it - as EDDC have previously pledged to do.

There are also a number which render the site inappropriate from a practical point of view.

Firstly, there is already an issue with traffic coming through the village - often at speed. The lanes nearby are narrow, bendy and with no pavements. Increasing the number of cars and people on these roads is utterly inappropriate and dangerous.

There are only infrequent buses to Honiton and people in the houses are far from Honiton, forcing more people into cars.

Flooding already takes place and a new development would exasperate this. There is also a sewage problem - again this would be made worse by a new development.

The local services are already very stretched. There is no capacity at Honiton surgery, Honiton schools or nearby King's. They are full. What is the long-term plan to accommodate the needs of the people in the homes? Shouldn't the homes be built where community services are currently being constructed, such as Cranbrook? Or the new town?

Finally, the UK government have said that they want local planners and councils to take more account of objections raised by parish councils and residents. They know their areas best. In the case of Gittisham, it is not simply a case of obstruction for the sake of it. The parish supports the building of four affordable homes in the village, for example.

There is enormous objection to the housing proposals in Gittisham for sound and valid reasons. These views should be listened to.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Baxter

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