

Tara Maizonnier

From: Jay Singh <jay.singh@wychavon.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 November 2022 13:19
To: Legg, John
Cc: Planning Support Inbox - WDC; Tara Maizonnier; Guy Wakefield; paul.instone@appliedtownplanning.com; Charles Potterton; David Hickie; Eileen Marshall; Susanne Hiscock; Appeals,Planning - WDC
Subject: New Housing / Land off Kidderminster Rd, Hampton Lovett / Application no. W/22/00201/OUT - Appeal ref : APP/H1840/W/22/3305934

Dear John

Please see enclosed additional neighbour representation in respect of the above mentioned planning appeal for the attention of the Inspector.

Thanks

Jay Singh

Principal Planning Officer

From: David Whiting <xxx>
Sent: 19 November 2022 14:02
To: Jay Singh <Jay.singh@wychavon.gov.uk>
Subject: Planning Application for New Housing / Land off Kidderminster Rd, Hampton Lovett / Application no. W/22/00201/OUT

CAUTION: This email came from outside of the South Worcestershire councils IT network - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

Dear Sir

I speak now not only as a resident, but as a qualified and long practising art historian who knows the full worth of Hampton Lovett Parish Church, its architecture, and the importance of its surrounding landscape in its story and aesthetic appreciation.

As I have already stressed (in the documents section relating to this proposal on the Wychavon website), this new proposal will do little to mitigate the damage that will be done to the immediate environment of an historic grade 1 listed church and its grounds. It merely attempts to move the problem a little further away, leaving only a small slither of vulnerable pasture as a token and cynical response to the very valid concerns of the planning inspector at the last appeal. It will still be a very extensive development, and sufficient to destroy the significant field which has afforded this church its tranquility when so much of the land surrounding this hamlet has already been lost to industrial development.

As I pointed out, the new proposal will not only obliterate the rural view still to be enjoyed *from* the church to the south and south-east, but it will remove the memorable views *of* the church from these areas, whether it be from further down the A442, from Doverdale Park Homes (which will be engulfed by the new housing on its north and east sides) or the corridor of green space between Doverdale Park Homes and the railway line. This is the last vestige of land on the south side which preserves the notion of the church as a rural one and needs to be protected at all costs, using the precedent that planning applications have long been refused where the historic setting of an important building will be lost or compromised, and this includes the views both to and from that structure. Housing will remove the view enjoyed from the churchyard of the beautiful south-east backdrop of woodland and trees.

It's ancient tranquility and peace was recognised and celebrated by the famous 19th century poet (and co-founder of the Oxford Movement) John Keble, when he visited the church, and enjoyed the churchyard and the 'the green', which, importantly, occupied much of the field where the housing would be built. In his poem he wrote;

"...These Firs, / Their sea-like dirge soft whispering day and night, / Hither your weary wandering steps invite: / These yew trees' massive shade, that hardly stirs / On the grey tombstones: all the still churchyard, / Not mingling with the haunts of man yet seen / From some few cottage windows o'er the green..."

This church is grade 1 listed for a purpose. It is an ancient monument of national significance, and its preservation is part and parcel with its immediate environment, its now fragile site and setting, with the precious margins of undeveloped land that still remain to be maintained for the future. Crucially this includes **all** of its green pasture towards, and to the east of, Doverdale Park Homes.

Yours faithfully

David Whiting

(David Whiting, A.I.C.A., F.R.S.A.)

Wychavon District Council

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