

Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Development Plan concerns and irregularities.

A formal complaint was made by parishioners against Cllr Kearsy and investigated by Misha Patel . We accept the conclusions ,however it was deemed that many aspects of the complaint were “ outside the peramiters of investigation and should be referred to planning ” . I would ask that this complaint be reinvestigated with the relevant people in the planning department.

From Parish Council Minutes 5/11/2019.

Councillor Kearsy and Becky became aware of the inclusion of a proposed housing site in Sedgeberrow....a greenfield site off Winchcombe Rd.....Becky and Cllr Kearsy met with Wychavon District Councilto influence where housing went in the parish “ Wychavons preferred site is land adjacent to 74 Winchcombe Rd

CHAIRMAN OF PARISH COUNCIL , CLLR KEARSEY LIVES AT 74 WINCHCOMBE RD.

There has been no declaration of pecuniary , fiduciary or non fiduciary interest made by Cllr Kearsy , despite living next door to proposed site and proposing land is made greenspace. Property valuations would be affected by all of these decisions.

Wychavon Councils Suzanne Gill confirmed on 10/5/21 that there was no record of interest being logged

The proposed site of Sedgeberrow development plan (Springfield nurseries) was subject to a previous planning application W/89/1756/0 . This was refused , went to appeal and was refused again ,the Department of the Environment Planning Inspectorate concluded “access onto Main St being unacceptable as being too close to Barn lane ,the consequences would be conflicting vehicular movements and misinterpretation of drivers signals contrary to the interests of highway safety “ . Since this report was written highway standards have become tighter concerning access distance parameters.

From Parish Council minutes 5/11/2019 “ the highways officer when considering the site felt that the Winchcombe Rd site performed slightly better based on the criteria he was assessing as he saw access to the nursery as a slight constraint”. Why would the parish council press ahead with Springfield nurseries ? Highly irregular. Chairman of Parish Council lives at 74 Winchcombe Rd , next to Wychavons preferred site.

From this meeting with Wychavon a formal “Memorandum of Understanding” between South Worcestershire Councils and Sedgeberrow Parish council was signed replacing original site CFS0066 with CFS0010 Springfield nurseries. This MOU was signed by Cllr Kearsy (signed copy available) ,but still no declaration of interest. Highly irregular. As part of the MOU a review should have taken place after 6 months. A formal written request to parish council and verbal request at parish meetings for review has been ignored. Parish council want to reduce any discussion on plan.

A request for information on the access to proposed Springfield nursery site was made to parish council and ignored , a FOI request had to be made and was ignored . A formal investigation was held (IC97217-NY08) concluding on balance parish council probably didn't have the relevant

information. I respect the conclusion , however less than 4 months later a development plan was submitted. Parish council wish to reduce any discussion on the plan.

Some 20 houses have been built in Sedgeberrow in the new development of Old School Drive ,18/0154/FUL. Sedgeberrow parish council objected to this development on the basis of traffic generated on Main St and proximity to the school. Old school Drive is approx 325 metres from the school , the proposed Springfield Nursery site is approx 75 metres from the school entrance and is for 24 houses ,it seems contradictory and irrational to object to Old School Drive , but to propose Springfield nurseries.

A proposed current development of 16 houses 21/02833/OUT ,giving land to the school and community as well as social housing has also been objected to by the Parish council. This development would also use Cheltenham Rd as an entrance , thereby avoiding any traffic using Main St . To quote parish council objection "all waters generated by development will discharge into river Isbourne at lower end of village and the serious flooding that occurs to properties in that area could be exacerbated ".

The Parish Council proposed development at Springfield nurseries is for 24 houses and associated roads , paths etc, this is a 50% increase over the 21/02833/OUT proposal , it seems contradictory and irrational to object to the smaller proposed development on the basis of a flooding risk ,but to press ahead with Springfield nurseries.

The Parish councils policy is not to allow development on greenfield sites , Springfield nurseries is officially classed as a greenfield site despite claiming otherwise. It seems contradictory and irrational to object to greenfield site development and propose Springfield nurseries.

Since the original parish survey has been carried out a further 10 houses have been approved , (excluding Old School Drive and current 21/02833/OUT proposal) . The plan is now outdated.

It should be noted that Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee consists of 3 people and is chaired by Cllr Kearsey , despite written and verbal requests for minutes and updates from the parish council nothing has been forthcoming . Sedgeberrow parish council standing orders do not permit a sub committee autonomy , but all decisions to be referred to full council and voted upon. These should be included in the minutes of meeting. It is obvious that full minutes have not been kept (or are well hidden) and the full parish council have not voted on them. This leaves the whole process open to a legal challenge. If any minutes should appear it would be interesting to note the date of posting / updating.