

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Claire Walker](#)
Subject: Planning Concerns for end of Friars Moor/Elm Close field- Sturminster Newton, Dorset
Date: 14 September 2015 15:40:43

Dear Madam

It has come to our attention that it is almost a certainty that a development of houses are to be built in the field that backs onto the end of our garden at the end of Friars Moor/Elm Close here in Sturminster Newton.

We bought this house five years ago, and particularly enjoy the fact that we had moved from a house situated by a very busy road, to one where we can sit in the garden with the children and enjoy beautiful countryside views from the back of the house, which is southwest facing, and gets lots and lots of sunshine, as well as really enjoy the peace and tranquility that this area has to offer.

After being here around eighteen months or so, a development of houses was built on the site of the old dairy, now called Stourcastle, and residents (both private, as well as considerable numbers of housing association families) moved into the area. Almost overnight the tone of the area completely changed, with no pride being taken in any of the outside spaces, a huge impact on noise disturbance, with absolutely no consideration whatsoever for anyone else in the neighbourhood. It is not usual to see regular visits from police cars and community support officers to this part of town, and this has now changed for the worse, in our opinion, the type of area in which we now live.

Stourcastle is situated to the right of our garden (when facing the railway), and often we have issues with noise disturbance during periods of nice weather, but are too scared to actually speak up and complain.

This brings me on to the concerns of any possible development at the bottom of our garden. Our worries are as follows:-

1. The noise of new neighbours, with stereos blaring day and night, with windows open right at the bottom of our garden...
2. More social housing...which my husband and I worked VERY hard indeed to move away from. Having spent the best part of twenty years living in housing association properties, we were desperate to finally get on the property ladder and move away from the horrendous areas we lived in, where we were faced with drug addicts, self-harmers, and people trying to commit suicide on an almost daily basis. (I kid you not!!!). So can you blame us if we are a little worried when our children play out as to what they could come across? The government ensuring that certain numbers of social housing are to be built on almost every new estate is a joke, as private and social housing just don't mix! I would love to have our Prime Minister live next to social housing for a few weeks and then see what it's like - especially when you have worked VERY hard to escape it!
3. My husband and I are very concerned in particular about the possibility of road widening, which would be essential for the access of the MASS amounts of cars coming in and out of the new estate, as well as for emergency vehicles. We own one of only two properties on Friars Moor, who do not have any kind of access to our house at all by vehicle, as we have to go along a walkway on foot at the end of Friars Moor to access our front gate, and have to park on council owned parking spaces, as there is NO other parking available on our narrow cul-de-sac. As this is council owned, is this going to be used for the road widening? We would not necessarily object to this, provided that great consideration and courtesy is shown to us, by allowing us access to our property at the rear of the garden from the field, which would then mean we could actually park on our own land, giving us much more flexibility with our garden, and if this was made a possibility, we would indeed be very grateful.
4. The height at which the properties are to be built. If there are going to be two or three storey buildings, as they have done in Stourcastle, built at the bottom of our garden, this is going to massively change our lovely view of the trees and fields, not to mention the difference this would make to the amount of light that our property would receive, and this is a great worry. Are our countryside views that we have strived for, for so long, now in jeopardy because of this new housing

development?

My husband and I are fully aware that these houses have to be built somewhere, and are almost definitely going to come to fruition, and that being said, we feel that providing that they are done with sensitivity to the existing homes, built as low-level as possible where near to the back of the housing that is already there, therefore not ruining views, and great thought is put in to the sites of the obligatory social housing(!), then we cannot see why agreements cannot be made between existing residents and the planners/developers of this site. Of all the houses on Friars Moor, the bottom row of homes, one of which we live, are going to be the ones most affected by this huge change to the area due to the proximity of the build to our land, therefore should be given the greatest consideration when planning.

We feel that it would be of great benefit to all concerned if at some point we could actually discuss the points raised with whomever it may concern. We would especially like to raise the idea of gaining access to our garden, as it would potentially be a great way of compensating us for what is obviously going to be a massive overhaul to our area of countryside (and the best dog-walking field in the area!).

Thank you in advance for your help with this matter, and I very much look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Your faithfully

Rebekah Goddard

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P.S. I would be most grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email ASAP. - Thank you :)