

Pimperne Neighbourhood Planning Group

Mrs Leani Haim
Assistant Town Clerk
Blandford Forum Town Council
Town Clerk's Office
Church Lane
Blandford Forum
Dorset
DT11 7AD

29 October 2015

Dear Leani

Pimperne Neighbourhood Planning Group's response to the Blandford + Draft Plan consultation is as follows:

Question 1 – We believe that this is something of a misleading question as it makes no reference to alternative areas for development within the boundary. We do not agree that the Plan should focus future growth on the northern and eastern edges of the town as this is unsupported by NDDC's Local Plan which identifies the areas to the South East and South West as the main areas for future growth. The Blandford + Plan would involve significant development beyond the bypass on greenfield sites and risks creating a community that is isolated from the rest of the town. We believe that the bypass provides a clear boundary to the town and helps to retain a distinct gap between Pimperne and Blandford, an issue that emerged as extremely important for Pimperne residents in our neighbourhood plan survey.

Question 2 – The mix of development as proposed is unsustainable and according to the "Sustainability Appraisal of Changes to the Submission Document" for North Dorset Local Plan Part One will not meet the need for social progress that recognises the needs of everyone. The development has significant risks of being isolated from the rest of Blandford, crossing a bypass that was designed not to be crossed at its inception, and is on a greenfield site overlooking the AONB.

Question 3 – The site proposed is not adjoining the AONB but actually lies within it and the DCC Landscape Officer and the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire AONB Team have identified that the area has "moderate/high landscape value at present due to its contribution to the open underdeveloped character of the AONB". The proposal would have a negative impact on the landscape character, resulting in intrusion to the rural scene, and causing additional traffic issues. We question why the Neighbourhood Plan should include proposals for household waste recycling which should be a strategic county matter.

Question 4 - We question whether there is a need for a food outlet to serve the North and East of Blandford and wonder whether the site would represent a more appropriate site for a new school.

Yours sincerely

Bryn MacGregor