


7th September, 2014

Mr Trevor Warrick
Planning Policy Manager
North Dorset District Council
Norden, Salisbury Road
Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 7LL



Dear Mr Warrick,

North Dorset Local Plan – 2011 to 2026
Part 1: Pre-submission Focused Changes

We are responding to your letter dated 1st August 2014 and after careful consideration we wish to submit the following observations for your consideration.

Firstly, we are very relieved that the Crown Meadows site has finally been knocked on the head by English Heritage; Blandford town centre is already far too difficult for existing traffic to negotiate. Therefore we warmly welcome the proposed St Mary's Hill housing project.

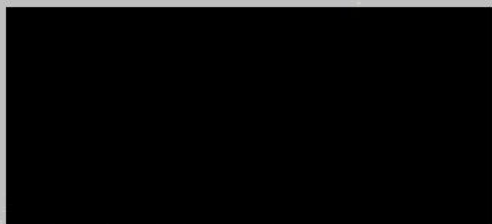
We offer the following suggestions to improve the plans:

- Would recommend entry for construction traffic and future housing on St Mary's Hill site to access at proposed roundabout on A354/A350 Relief Road rather than via present A350, as the proposed junction would be only around 100 yards from Tesco roundabout; a potential congestion and accident spot, especially in advance of the existence of the A350 Relief Road.
- Would prefer pedestrian/cycle route to pass through fringes of proposed housing estate (where the double line of trees is shown on the initial sketch layout and along the positive urban/rural edge), in order to separate it from traffic on the current A350, where the pavement is very narrow and would not allow pedestrians and cyclists to pass one another in safety.
- If possible, link this pedestrian/cycle route to the existing railway, either across the field adjacent to the housing estate (if the farmer permits this) or via the South-West boundary hedge of the field, parallel to the proposed Relief Road.
- Would prefer a pedestrian/cycle bridge over the A354, because underpasses have a habit of turning into unplanned public conveniences, graffiti-plastered walls, a repository of drug / drink paraphernalia and undesirables, particularly at night. This

would surely be preferred by residents of the new estate, for whom this would be the main pedestrian route into and from the town centre facilities.

We would be grateful to be kept informed of the development of these plans as they mature.

Yours sincerely,



Peter & Gillian Knowles