

Re-Consultation Crown flood Meadow, Deer Park.
Blandford Forum



Dear Councillors,

First of all, although my address is Park Lands I do not overlook the meadows, living at the end of Bryanston Street facing the cul-de-sac that is Park lands. As a consequence I have no vested interest in the view. I also think the lack of housing in this country is an utter disgrace so I am not objecting on the grounds that the countryside should never be built on. My objections to building on the meadow are many. I will list them below

FLOODING :

Blandford has a history of flooding that the flood defences have not totally resolved. The proposed land is already flooding outside the environment agency's flood map. With their own calculations of a 5% and 10% increase in risk over the next 25 years, taking into account ground water and surface water drainage and the probability of a super flood, other flood defences up or down the river affecting the flood meadow, Park Lands stands six to 8 feet above the meadow and there is standing water in the ha-ha, It would seem beyond all reason to build there given there is a completely flood free alternative. The new arrangements between the government and the insurance industry do not cover building after 2009. The homes will surely be uninsurable





HOUSING NEEDS

Blandford isn't in the main a high earning area. The housing needs of Blandford are not high end. With changes in section 106 the chances of any of the building on the Crown Meadows being within the affordable or social status is nil. Please listen for evidence the attached c.d. Any arrangements or promises made to the council at the planning stage can now be very easily altered even in retrospect and this is already continually being done all over the country with councils obliged to capitulate. The houses will be those that make the maximum profit for the builder and interested parties as they feel that social housing shouldn't be financed by them. There are 50 people for every one bedroom residence in Blandford, according to the council's own figures. As it is, now that Housing Associations are allowed to charge up to 80% of market value, people on quite average wages will be priced out of ever owning a home. Most of the people are working members of our own community and all have a priority to be housed over and above high earners or outsiders. The alternative near to Tesco, although outside the ring road, seems a sensible choice. The ring road was never meant to be a barrier to housing, and the chances of mixed housing are far more likely than on a beautiful English meadow.

RIVER MEWS- SHORTS LANE



PROTECTED LAND

I understand that the Deer Park has had some protected status up to now.

What's changed?

The list of wild life, birds mammals including bats has been well documented. It is ignorant to say that this development will not affect the wild life as their area shrinks. It's still one of the few areas in town where the sky is truly black at night, the effect of light pollution alone will have a detrimental effect on wild life. Past developments have been refused on 'environmental issues' to do with the pollution of drinking water supplies, and nearby planning applications have been consistently thrown out. So why all of a sudden have things changed?



CROWN MEADOWS

THE PREVIOUS CONSULTATION PROCESS.

The consultation specific to this land has entirely felt like a done deal. Inappropriate tick box Questions: e.g. "do you want this many houses built" or this many houses"? Not "do you want ANY houses built". It's like saying 'how high do you want to jump?' Not whether you want to jump at all!

DUTY

Councillors have a first and foremost duty to the people who elected them before loyalty to their political parties. The people of Blandford do not want this development and they have made their wishes known to you. I cannot for the life of me think of any reasons why you would go against the wishes of Blandford people, give the evidence and an alternative site. Any monetary gain for the Government should be set aside in this instance, because the people of Blandford deserve your loyalty. Once the meadow is gone it will never come back.

Yours Faithfully



See additional material: c.d.

BBC Radio Four- Face The Facts (09/01/14) : 'The Affordable Housing That's Unaffordable.'
ITV- Tonight (09/01/14) : 'Caught In The Storm.'