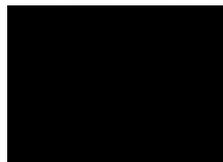


To whom it may concern

Mr and Mrs W Neilson



22.08.2017

Re Local plan 2017/18

Central Beds Council

We would like you to take the following details into account when putting in place the new structure for the local plan please.

We have lived in this beautiful village for nearly two years now and are extremely concerned that this wonderful environment is about to be ruined by your future proposed plans.

There are various points we hope you will seriously consider before agreeing to any further building or development in this beautiful area –

We believe that to even attempt to join Flitwick with Steppingley and remove the green belt land that divides us is totally wrong as the unique character of what Steppingley is will be blurred merging it with another local town.

We must ask that you retain and maintain the green spaces around us here as they are a natural habitat for wildlife – crested newts, woodpeckers, bats, hares etc and various flora and fauna that are likely to simply disappear with any developments.

We have the most amazing dark skies here too and these will be lost with any development being brought into the area. Those of you who have never gazed into a pitch black sky with twinkling stars should pop up to Steppingley to see why this must not be taken away and why visitors to the area take away fantastic memories.

We are lucky enough to live in a green belt environment where walking, running, cycling provide free pleasure – no payment, no crowds and very little traffic to disturb this. If you go ahead with your plans these things will be a thing of the past – gone and forgotten.

We have regular races through here for both runners and cyclists and every day the cyclists use this as a great route to take them out into the open countryside. We also have walkers and particularly dog walkers through the village who always stop to admire stating that this is a beautiful, quiet unspoilt place to live.

More houses built here mean more vehicle and we urge you and your councillors to drive into Steppingley round the dangerous bend leading to the French Horn. In the two years we have lived here I cannot tell you how many accidents have occurred due to traffic speeding as they approach the bend to head towards Milton Keynes. The traffic on Rectory Road parks on one side making this a single track road most of the time and already causes congestion with even a slight increase in traffic so to encourage more to use this part of Steppingley is pure madness.

We fully understand the need for new homes in the area but it is extremely disturbing to think that those of us who have worked long and hard to live in an unspoilt hamlet need to give that up in order to line the pockets of those who don't live here and are just interested in making money.

Steppingley is steeped in history and the flora and fauna in the area deserve to be preserved. The local walks are beautiful and the peace and tranquillity should be preserved for future generations.

We implore you to think again when considering planning permission here. We strongly urge you to visit the area both by car and on foot and enjoy what we are trying to preserve.

Yours sincerely

William and Julie Neilson