

ELIZABETH HOLROYDE

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10th June 20214

Dear Councillor Mobbs,

My husband Geoffrey Holroyde, who is abroad until the 26th June, has asked me to send the attached letter to you. He feels that it is a new approach to the issue of the proposed housing on greenfield sites to the south of Warwick.

He would be obliged if you could forward copies to your colleagues.

Elizabeth Holroyde

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To

The Chairman and members of the Warwick District Council

Copy

The Chairmen and members of the Warwick and Leamington Town Councils
The Member of Parliament for Warwick and Leamington
The Local Press, and others concerned

PROPOSED SIGNIFICANT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SOUTH OF WARWICK

The purpose of this letter is not to rehearse again the arguments for and against the provision of thousands of new homes south of Warwick. It raises three issues which seem to have been missed so far.

1. To remind the Councils and the public that the Councils have in the past made proposals which were not in the interests of the communities they are elected to serve, and were fortunately overturned by, inter alia, public pressure and common sense. For example,

(a) during the 1960s the County Council's proposed Inner Relief Road which would have bulldozed a dual carriage way road through the middle of Warwick - destroying parks and houses, was finally abandoned after massive displays of public hostility - including serious public demonstrations by large numbers of people.

(b) the objection by the District Council (despite WCC support) to the building of the Warwick Parkway Railway Station - finally overruled by the Secretary of State after an absurdly expensive (for council tax payers) and time-consuming enquiry. This station has proved hugely successful.

The Councils are not always right, nor has the officers' advice always been helpful. Members need to consider seriously whether the advice they are receiving in the context of the proposed housing expansion is in the interests of all the communities they are elected to serve.

2. Questions to which we need answers. Has the WDC consulted with, and agreed strategies, to deal with a massive expansion of population south of the river, with, eg, the following

- (a) Warwick Hospital and the local health service providers
- (b) The Railway Companies operating through and using local stations
- (c) The Authorities which provide roads, particularly those crossing the river
- (c) Convenient car parking in Warwick and Leamington
- (d) Bus companies - providing for non-drivers, and frequent services at off-peak times.
- (e) Retail and other service providers
- (f) Colleges providing post-16 education and training
- (g) The providers of water, gas, electricity, and drainage, and flood prevention.
- (h) The providers of entertainment and sporting facilities
- (i) Employers both locally and within commutable ranges. Will there be work and where?

3. If, after agreeing strategies with the organisations mentioned above, and others yet to be identified, the local electorate is persuaded to support the proposed significant housing developments, the WDC aided by the WCC, should seize this golden opportunity to do something which will be widely applauded and of lasting value, and not just settle for yet another bland, overcrowded, boring housing estate.

A creative proposal might embrace, for example

- (a) wide boulevards including pedestrian and cycle ways, and much green space
- (b) abundant and safe car parking - much of it underground or multi-storey
- (c) significant and interesting public parks and recreation spaces
- (d) a theatre, concert and meeting hall, a cinema, a cottage hospital, places of worship, and schools and shopping mall, - all of architectural merit - which will stand the test of time
- (e) a wide variety of houses from very small to very large, of many different styles, including apartment blocks of up to six levels (or more) of quality (tempting for the affluent and also the less well off) with very wide green and tree planted spaces between them, and basement car parking.

The Councils and local communities of Leamington and Warwick would welcome a third community - and indeed share its facilities - if it added to the facilities and beauty of the area, rather than becoming just another huge, overcrowded, boring, housing estate, placing massive demands on an already overburdened infrastructure.

We must not let cost dictate what happens. Money can be found. The developers want the space - let them have it at a price. The Council tax revenue will be hugely increased.

Geoffrey Holroyde 38, Coten End, Warwick CV34 4NP 06.06.2014

Ref. 20140606WDC

Cllr Andrew Mobbs
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Member for Kenilworth Park Hill
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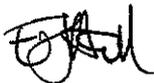
our ref: AM/EJH
your ref: 20140606WDC

Dear Mrs Holroyde

Proposed Significant Housing Development South of Warwick

I acknowledge receipt of your communication dated 10th June enclosing the letter from your husband. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding but I can confirm that your correspondence has been brought to the attention of Dave Barber, Planning Policy and Conservation Manager, who will register this as a comment on the Local Plan.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Andrew Mobbs

Leader of the Council

(Signed in the absence of the Leader of the Council)



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