

10th April 2014

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Planning Policy Team
Shropshire Council
Shirehall Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury SY2 6ND

Dear Sir

SAMDEV DRAFT FINAL PLAN CHURCH STRETTON

I refer to the draft final plan (Samdev) for Church Stretton recently published where it is proposed to allow the development of land known as The Leasowes and Battlefield to the north of Sandford Avenue and Oakland Park.

My wife and I wish to register our objections to this proposal on the grounds given below. We are long term residents of Shropshire having come to live here when I obtained employment in Shrewsbury many years ago.

The Church Stretton area was many years ago quite rightly declared to be and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This declaration was intended, in part, to prevent the hills and slopes and land being developed without sensible thought and protect the centuries old rugged beauty of the area for future generations. To plan to develop this area breaks all the rules of an AONB and makes the original designation completely pointless and worthless. It reflects adversely on the County Council and our county councillors.

A similar development was proposed some 20-30 years ago and at the Planning Inquiry which took place at that time an expert from the Severn/Trent Authority (which had certain responsibilities at the time) declared that the local drainage, sewage, water, and utilities systems could not support an additional 50+ houses without substantial major development. To my knowledge this has never changed nor has expansion of utilities taken place. He also declared that the continued covering of the land which soaked up water with asphalt and concrete meant that the water would run straight off into the Stretton Valley and this would cause flooding and many problems associated with the excess unless major capital development took place. No such development is proposed here and the proposal if it goes ahead could bring serious problems to the area.

The application all those years ago was, as you will know, refused with the independent planning inspector stating that the hills should never be built upon. Is this view, expressed by a professional planning inspector, to be ignored? How often (frequently) are developers permitted to submit their plans even though

they have been rejected on a previous occasion. Are they permitted to continue to submit over the years until the proposal is accepted?

Mrs Sincerely

D.J.Crompton/ Mrs E Crompton