

Objection to planning application for proposed development (David Wilson Homes) to land east of Cossington Road, Sileby, Leicestershire

Ref: APP/X2410/W/21/3287864

I wish to object to this proposal which was originally considered and rejected by the Planning Department, Charnwood Borough Council, and which is now subject to a public enquiry.

The chief reason for the rejection of the original proposal is that the field in question is the only remaining separation between the villages of Sileby and Cossington.

Cossington is a historic small Leicestershire village and there is no doubt in my mind that this proposal would result in an irrevocable change in the character of the village by removing any division between this and Sileby: Cossington will in effect be subsumed into Sileby.

However, my 2 main objections are as follows;

1. Cossington is in a high-risk Flood zone. There was a major flood in the Main Street in Cossington in October 2019 – my property was one of several old properties which sustained flood damage. Another ‘near miss’ flood event occurred in February 2020 – the road was flooded again, but this time no properties were affected.

The water was surface water coming from the fields to the east of Cossington road, which on both occasions had been saturated after several weeks of rain. The final event came after 12 or more hours of heavy rain – the land could not absorb the additional water and both drainage ditches and drains were overwhelmed.

There has been work to upgrade the drains since then but another planning application has been approved to build 120-170 homes in a field adjacent to the current proposal – land behind Derry’s nurseries and off Humble Lane Cossington (Charnwood planning application no P/20/2393/2). This will increase the risk of flooding of Main Street and properties by building over the ground available to absorb water in the event of sustained rained.

If the application APP/X2410/W/21/3287864 is approved, more land in the same area which could absorb the water will be built on, substantially increasing the risk. Such heavy rain, relatively unusual for this area, must surely be an increasing risk in the next 20 years due to climate change.

I should point out that about 400-500 square metres of the field proposed for the development east of Cossington Road is often under 3 or more feet of standing water after prolonged rain in the winter months.

2. Cossington Road between Cossington and Sileby is a main through route for traffic to Sileby and Barrow; heavy traffic is set to increase further with this development and the

other development off Humble name mentioned above. There is a primary school on the Main Street in Cossington close to where I live and increasing the amount of traffic will be a risk to pupils and their parents collecting them.

3. There have been some large developments in Sileby (Seagrave Road and Ratcliffe Road) with no increase in services (GP surgeries or GPs, school places, local shops). Both this development if approved and 2 currently approved developments in Cossington will further add to this pressure on services (the only ones in Cossington currently are a pub and garden centre!).

John de Caestecker
41 Main Street
Cossington
Leics LE7 4UU