

CLIVE PARISH COUNCIL

Telephone: 01691 238267, E-mail: clivepc@hotmail.co.uk.

Website: www.cliveparishcouncil.org

Chairman Cllr Peter Slark

Clive Parish Council
164 Cabin Lane,
Oswestry,
Shropshire,
SY11 2PF

Thursday 30th January 2020

Dear Eddie,

Re: CLV010, Clive parish

I hope you are well. As promised, please see below the Parish Council's initial response to the Berrys letter dated 16th December 2019 (of which the Parish Council first had sight on 8th January 2020). At the council meeting on 23rd January, Clive Parish Council discussed this letter, in which the landowner put forward an offer to make additional land available to the primary school, in the hopes that this would make their site (CLV010) more acceptable as a preferred site for development in Clive under the Shropshire Local Plan Review. The Parish Council cannot at this stage offer comment on the proposal to make land available to the school, as the letter does not offer any concrete details of what this might entail, however we understand that this offer has not yet been formally discussed by the school governors as a group. We are aware that the governors will be meeting in February and the Parish Council will be inviting the chair of governors to attend the next Parish Council meeting on 20th February to discuss this further.

What the Parish Council would like to comment on however, are some factual errors that were included in the letter, and which the Parish Council finds to be misleading. In the letter, the agent claims that site CLV010 is a 'short walk from the school, shop and village facilities, all of which are within ten minutes' walk'. The Parish Council stated in its formal response to the latest consultation stage of the Local Plan Review that there are other preferred sites (CLV012, CLV013, and CLV017) which are considerably closer to the school and other village facilities, and which rate equally or more highly against other criteria in the site assessments.

To verify the claim that site CLV010 is within ten minutes' walk of the surgery and school, one of the parish councillors undertook to walk from the gates of Melbourne House (which abuts the furthest point of CLV010) to both these facilities and recorded the time taken and walking speed. With an

average speed of 2.58 miles per hour, it took the councillor 15mins 54sec to reach the Doctors Surgery, and it took 21mins 32sec to reach the school gate (via Whitley's Drive), which is over twice the amount of time claimed by Berrys in their letter. It was also noted by the Parish Council that the councillor's average walking speed (2.58mph) on this journey was noticeably quicker than the average pedestrian (numerous studies show the average walking speed on flat terrain to be 3.1mph). Coupled with the fact that the route to the school from site CLV010 is all uphill, the Council strongly believes that the walking speed for pedestrians with small children and pushchairs would be considerably slower than 2.58 miles per hour. Therefore, it is estimated that in reality it is likely to take closer to 30 minutes for pedestrians with children to reach the school on foot. The councillor did in fact attempt to make the same walk to the school accompanied by small children at 8.15 am, in order to establish what impact this would have on the time taken to reach the school and other village facilities. However it became apparent within the first minute that this was unacceptably dangerous due to the volume of traffic on the highway, and there being no places to stand safely while traffic passes.

Given the estimated time taken to walk from site CLV010 to the primary school specifically, the Parish Council strongly believes that this will discourage parents and guardians from walking their children to and from school, and to drive instead. This will mean more traffic on the road (making it more dangerous for those residents who do attempt to walk), and more cars attempting to park in the village at drop off and pick up times. Our concerns about unsafe parking are well-documented, and the Parish Council would like to draw your attention to our previous objections to site CLV010 (with specific respect to road safety and traffic), as stated in the Parish Council's formal response to the Preferred Sites consultation in February 2019 (full response attached for reference):

"Road safety: (8 comments)

As mentioned under Q58b, there are considerable concerns that increasing the number of vehicles in the village would increase the risks to pedestrian safety, particularly of school children, and the large number of senior citizens in Clive. Site CLV010 is situated along a stretch of road with no pavements or streetlights and there are already concerns about the excessive speed of vehicles in that part of the village."

"Traffic: (11 comments)

As site CLV010 is further away from the school and as there are no pavements on that stretch of road it is highly likely that people living in those homes would feel unsafe walking to the school and medical centre, and would drive instead, which would further exacerbate the problems of traffic in

the village around these hot spots. These serious concerns have already been highlighted by Clive Parish Council and recognised by Shropshire Highways. If development was focussed on the alternative sites [sites CLV012, CV013, and CLV017] as proposed by Clive Parish Council, they would be closer to these amenities and people living on those sites would be able to walk more safely to school etc., without using vehicles and adding to the already difficult traffic and parking problems that the Parish Council and Shropshire Highways are struggling to resolve.”

We would also like to remind Shropshire Council that the Parish Council’s response to the Preferred Sites consultation was drafted following repeated consultation and engagement with the local community.

To summarise, the Parish Council feels strongly that the claims made in support of site CLV010 in the Berrys letter are incorrect and misleading. The increased distance of site CLV010 from the school, Doctors surgery, and other village facilities, coupled with an uphill route with no pavements, will discourage residents from walking, and will in turn lead to an increase of traffic through the village, and further exacerbate the problem of unsafe parking during peak times. This is not only a serious safety concern, but it also conflicts with Shropshire Council’s own objectives for tackling climate change through reducing pollution and carbon emissions. At this stage, the Parish Council does not feel that these stated objections to site CLV010, as well as those made in our response to the Preferred Sites consultation, are outweighed by the proposal to make more land available to the primary school. We strongly urge Shropshire Council to take these objections (which represent feedback from the community) into consideration when making their decisions regarding preferred sites for development and development boundaries for Clive parish.

Thank you very much, and please don’t hesitate to get in touch if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Miss Lydia Bardsley.

Miss Lydia Bardsley
Clerk to Clive Parish Council