

Late Material – July 2023

Agenda Item 5 – New Dawn View, Gloucester (23/00280/OUT)

Late representation from Members of the Blackbridge Committee sent via email on Monday 3rd July 2023.

Dear Planning Committee Members,

We urge you all on the Planning Committee tomorrow, 4th July that you follow Planning Policy and consider the following:

- The Housing Development plans are separate to the Sports Hub plans. At the Sports Hub planning meeting when the Housing was raised the Vice Chair told the Committee that it was a separate plan and could not be raised. The same should apply to these Housing Plans.
- The exception test, used in the report, states,

“A robust and up to date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.”

In this case the exception test is wrong.

Please refer to the Playing Pitch Strategy i.e. pages 9, 15, 27 and 42 of the Playing Pitch Strategy with regards to Widden and Cryptians training needs and the overuse of their own fields. Had there been a robust and up to date assessment done they would see this is still the case. It is contradictory therefore to regard the Blackbridge Housing proposal site as surplus to requirements. Furthermore, this means the PPS goes against item 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework for proposing it in the first place.

- Why does Sport England get such a huge say in approving a housing development especially as they have failed to adequately assess the use and need of the field.
- According to Gloucester’s own Open Space Strategy, 2020, neighbouring Moreland and Tuffley only have 18 hectares of open space between them, two of the lowest in the City, therefore these residents use Podsmead’s open space at Blackbridge.
- How is putting Housing on a current sporting and recreational site beneficial to the local’s well-being and exercise needs and for formal Sport?

Should the plans be approved, we believe that the decision will be lawfully and ethically wrong.

Yours sincerely

Members of Blackbridge Committee, representing the local community