



## MARK GARNIER MP

*Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest*

Planning Application Consultation ref:  
M/22/00573/OUT (Malvern Hills District Council) and  
22/00315/OUT (Wyre Forest District Council)

16<sup>th</sup> April 2024

To Whom it May Concern

Please find below my profound objections to this planning application. Whilst I fully recognise that as a local member of parliament, I have no statutory role to play in the realm of planning, I speak on behalf of my many constituents who have objected to this. Indeed, both Wyre Forest District Council and Malvern Hills District Council have also objected.

Before going into the details of why I object on more technical terms, this whole development is offensive in its structure. Whilst permission has been granted because of failures by Malvern Hills, the entire burden of this development will fall on the town of Stourport, in Wyre Forest District. Schools, roads, services – especially waste water – doctors surgeries, amenities; everything will be burdened onto Stourport simply because a distant council has failed to provide a local plan. This is manifestly unjust.

This site application follows the refusal by both Malvern Hills and Wyre Forest District Councils and the subsequent Planning Inspectorate's overruling on Appeal. This is due to Malvern Hills being unable to demonstrate a 5 year supply of deliverable housing.

Within the inspector's appeal decision there are 40 conditions which need to be addressed prior to any development, thus recognising a number of issues that would need to be addressed at the detailed design stage. From the information provided and available via the planning portal I do not believe that these conditions have been met in their entirety.

One of the major concerns locally is the frequency of localised surface flooding. With increased developments creating more run-off surface areas resulting in more localised flooding and demonstrates that the current network, which this new development will also be utilising, is already over capacity. Therefore, any proposal to utilise the current drainage system already in place would be inappropriate and requires further investigation.

A further concern locally is the loss of habitat to wildlife. Within the numerous conditions is a requirement for a Badger Mitigation Strategy and to ensure connectivity exists between the sett and appropriate feeding habitats. This recognises the importance of protected species, but within this is the omission of Skylarks which are also present on this land and are categorised as a Red species.

Skylarks nest on the ground and under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) developers must take regard for the conservation of species and must comply with the legal protection of wild birds. A full report needs to be prepared.

In conclusion, prior to any approval of this site further surface water flood risks must be investigated as already regular occurrence of flooding in this area is apparent and a wider wildlife habitat assessment must be carried out to include the presence of declining bird species. Additionally, along with S106 monies for Wyre Forest, as it will be the community of Stourport which will be carrying the weight of this development, I would urge the County Council to commence S106 requirements for improved Highway connectivity in the area and include contributions towards an additional River Severn Crossing between the two bridges at Holt Heath and Stourport.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Garnier', written in a cursive style.

Mark Garnier OBE

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