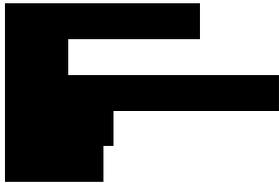


Mrs A Roe
Lydiard Tregoze Parish Council Clerk



14 December 2016

Dear Mrs Roe and Mr Willis

Thank you for your letter dated 1 November 2016. Since its receipt Taylor Wimpey has publicly announced the withdrawal of their application. As a group formed to protect the Heritage of Lydiard Park, the Lydiard Heritage Action Group naturally welcomes this announcement. However, we do see it as a strategic withdrawal on the part of Taylor Wimpey and recognise that they may well re-apply at some point in the future.

Whilst the Lydiard Heritage Action Group and your Parish Council have had some very public disagreements during this saga, we sincerely hope there is one item that we can both agree upon. That is the importance of a Neighbourhood Plan to your Parish and your neighbours. Without such a plan, the only likely winners will be speculative developers making maverick applications to build in pretty much any location within your Parish. Whilst Wiltshire's Core Strategy will protect the Parish up to a point, a robust Neighbourhood Plan will provide the peace of mind for both your residents and your neighbours.

To that end, as a community organisation and neighbour, we would like to make a very genuine offer of assistance in the development of your Neighbourhood Plan. Our red lines have been made clear over the last several months, but by including the residents and statutory bodies that opposed the recent Taylor Wimpey application in the development of your plan, we believe its path to adoption will be smoother and faster.

We do understand your desire to develop the Plan with your residents needs at its heart. However, the process that leads to its adoption requires robust community consultation and research. It should also be based on Wiltshire Council 'guidance note 12: writing planning policies' which requires Plans to be '*established through an appraisal of reasonable alternatives*' and '*based on evidence*'; and should not be '*at odds with Core or strategic objectives and policies*'. We can help with many of these aspects and, in addition through our contacts within Swindon Borough Council, provide assistance on SBC related planning policy requirements and on more specific issues such as that of cemetery availability.

Finally, we would like to provide some additional comments with respect to the Freedom of Information request response you sent in your letter of November 1st.

Parish Councillors

Thank you for confirming the current Lydiard Tregoze Parish Councillors. Perhaps you could review the list found on Wiltshire Councils website and request they be updated to reflect the current situation. The web address can be found at the end of this letter¹.

Pecuniary Interests

We have to disagree with your statement that Parish Councillor's register of interests are "*subject to the data protection act*". Indeed the web address at the end of this letter provides the general public

with disclosed interests. In addition, the good councillor's guide (4th edition) states *"The monitoring officer will make a register of your interests available to the public – usually on the principal authority's website. This rule on disclosure also applies to your spouse, civil partner or cohabitee, as if their interests were yours. You should be aware that the register of interests does not distinguish between a councillor's interests and those that are held by your partner"*.

Neighbourhood Plan

We are aware of several emails sent by Carolyn Gibson to your Parish Council. For example in February 2016 she wrote *"It is important that the content of your section of the NP is evidenced through community consultation and research. For example if a site were to be allocated there would need to be a systematic assessment of all the sites you had considered and rejected in order to allocate a specific location"*. And in April 2016 she *"expressed concerns about the evidence you have to justify a 50 house allocation in the Plan "*.

Rational for your support

You wrote *"This development will satisfy the housing needs for the parish for the life of the current Core Strategy and beyond"*. We have to disagree with this statement. As you know, housing targets are set at a local planning authority level and not a Parish level. Any future applicant seeking approval of an application within your Parish will not choose to go elsewhere simply because you feel you have exceeded your quota. Likewise, the LPA officer and, where required, the planning Inspector, will judge any such future application on LPA wide policy grounds. You also wrote *"we consider the development to be sustainable"*. Again, we disagree and so too does other consultees such as; Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire's drainage engineer and Wiltshire's highways officer.

By working together rather than in conflict, we believe a Lydiard Tregoze Neighbourhood Plan can be developed in a practical and reasonable timeframe that benefits all communities and statutory bodies.

Yours sincerely on behalf of the Lydiard Heritage Action Group

Kevin Fisher
Chair - Lydiard Heritage Action Group

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Kevin Fisher.

ⁱ <http://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/TownAndParish/ROI/Council/747>