

Thank you for allowing me to speak.

I am Kevin and I represent the Lydiard Heritage Action Group, which consists of representatives from many community organisations and includes both Swindon and Wiltshire residents. Several of its members are here today.

Our objective is to ensure Taylor Wimpey's application to build within the essential setting of Lydiard Park and in full view of St Mary's Church is rejected.

You all have a copy of our letter dated 23 October which lays out our rational for our Freedom of Information requests. I refer you to page one.

You will see that Swindon Borough Council, Historic England and Lydiard Millicent Parish Council have all lodged detailed objections.

We expect the Garden's Trust to do the same and are waiting on a report from Wiltshire's drainage engineer, which is expected to highlight serious concerns.

We believe a harmonisation of the reservoir act between England and Wales is likely. We have asked Wiltshire and Swindon Councils to investigate the huge financial implication for the redesign of the spillway within the Parks Dam, should more houses be built downstream.

Since writing our letter, the Wiltshire highways officer has written to say "the proposals are therefore contrary to sustainable transport objectives" and "I am prepared to raise a highways objection".

From a democracy standpoint, Swindon Borough councillors passed a cross party motion stating their 'unequivocal objection' to the application.

Solicitor General and South Swindon MP Robert Buckland and Wiltshire MP James Gray have also written an objection.

Every Lydiard Park related community organisation has compiled strong arguments against the application. Their reasons, like those of the aforementioned organisations and individuals, are available for download from the Wiltshire planning website.

Of the 601 representation letters posted on that website, 99.5% are against the proposal.

Nearly a quarter of them are from villages west of Swindon, representing an objection level approximately five times greater than that of Swindon residents.

You, Lydiard Tregoze Parish Councillors, stand alone in your support.

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We believe that, should Taylor Wimpey, with your support, succeed with their application, you will be remembered as those that enabled the falling of the first and most significant domino, paving the way for the subsequent development of all the land west of Swindon up to and including Hook village.

The sequence of events resulting in your Council resigning, without a documented reason, from NEW-V raises many questions about your motives and, in particular, the behaviour of Taylor Wimpey.

We do not understand why you are supportive of the application when there are so many powerful arguments against it.

Which brings me to our Freedom of Information follow up letter dated 26th September, a letter which you are legally obliged to answer in full.

We therefore expect a complete response to our requests or, where requested documents do not exist, a written statement of that fact.

In terms of your developing neighbourhood plan, we are your neighbours and therefore expect to be consulted on any draft before it is submitted to Wiltshire Council.

It is not too late for you as a Parish Council to withdraw your letter of support for Taylor Wimpey's application and replace it with an objection.

We ask that you do that.

Thank you for your time.