

From: Duncan Allison [
Sent: 11- Sep- 11 16:38
To: Development Plans;
Subject: South Lakeland Proposed Land Allocations - Sedgwick and Brettargh Holt

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Sir,

I realise this objection letter is a day late but due to the consultation period being through the main holiday season, we have only just become aware of the details of proposed Land Allocations.

The proposed sites are unsuitable because, given the size of Sedgwick, local facilities are insufficient to sustain a large increase in population, so residents would have to drive to access employment, shops, schools and services. It appears SLDC has set an overall target which is too high and is necessitating the release of our greenfield sites. It has not sought to balance the need to deliver appropriate sites with a recognition that the landscape has a finite capacity to absorb development. This is a particularly important consideration in an area such as south Lakeland, which is renowned for its outstanding landscape. A healthy economy is dependent upon a high quality environment.

We would like to record our objections as follows;

E50-55#

a.. This proposed development is of a scale that would fundamentally change the area – sparsely populated villages and houses on the tourist approaches to Sizergh Castle and Levens Hall.

b.. Mixed residential and employment “sheds” at an already very busy roundabout, where all the traffic from Barrow heading for the M6 turns right, would increase traffic problems, noise and light pollution and alter the environment radically.

c.. It is totally out of keeping with the existing development in the area.

d.. The area is a green corridor between Levens and Sedgwick and development would lead to the two villages merging in to a small town.

E56#

a.. Same objections as for E50-55# plus this proposed development would be even more ridiculous as it would face flood risk from straddling the River Kent. The river would be more likely to suffer pollution both during development and after it was complete. This area has also been extensively excavated and reported upon by English Heritage, and includes a Scheduled Monument No 1365841, 19th Centaury Formal Garden at the former Basingill Gunpowder Works created by Isabella Wakefield of Sedgwick House.

ON56#

a.. This is good quality grazing land and creates a clear area of undeveloped land between Sedgwick and Natland. Any development would ruin the character and nature of Sedgwick and would lead to traffic widening schemes to accommodate increased traffic flow.

RN280#

a.. This represents a ribbon development along the lane rather than infill building.

b.. The existing limit of the village would be extended facilitating further

development in the future and erosion of the village nature of Sedgwick.

c.. The current grazing land provides significant amenity value to local walkers and hikers from further afield.

d.. Development would be visually intrusive.

e.. There would be an increase in traffic leading to the need for road widening and further urbanisation of the village.

RN322#

a.. This represents a ribbon development along the lane rather than infill building.

b.. The existing limit of the village would be extended facilitating further development in the future and erosion of the village nature of Sedgwick.

c.. Development would be visually intrusive.

d.. There would be an increase in traffic leading to the need for road widening and further urbanisation of the village.

Whether taken individually or collectively these proposals would materially alter the 'village' feel of Sedgwick and increase the likelihood of it becoming part of Kendal's urban sprawl in due course. The above objections barely touch on the environmental considerations in terms of our local fauna & flora, for example the village, due to the open field aspects, is currently sustaining a far higher number of certain bird species, such as the Mistle Thrush, an RSPB designated bird for conservation concern due to falling numbers and contracting range. According to current data collated regularly within the village the Mistle Thrush has an 85% reporting rate, against the 4.4% reporting rate recorded from across Cumbria as a whole – open, undeveloped land is vital to this bird species and many others

Likewise our village Hedgerows, which one assumes would be removed with the widening of lanes for building and traffic increases, are ancient and support a diverse range of species. Some of the hedgerows within the designated areas contain Bluebell, Dogs Mercury & Primrose which strongly suggests a woodland origin dating back to the Assarts of the 12th – 14th Century. With an average shrub species of 5.5 per 30 yards (ref Hooper's Law Dating Hedgerows) this would mean our village's hedgerows are at least 400 years old and irreplaceable.

Please reject these proposals.

Duncan and Allison Parkes