

PETITION TO SLDC

6th September 2011

From

Residents in the Park Road Area - Swarthmoor

SWARTHMOOR RESIDENTS REJECT NEW LAND ALLOCATION DOCUMENT

Having recently been made aware of a new land allocations document showing substantial development in Swarthmoor, a group of local residents met on 27 Aug 2011,

Those residents now affected by possible development totally and absolutely reject these suggested sites and the random manner in which they were put forward.

Via this petition, the residents demand :

- That the red areas identified for residential development surrounding Swarthmoor are removed from the land allocation document and that no further maps are drawn without proper consultation.
- That professional feasibility studies take place which would consider the impact of any future development on the village as a whole, its identity as a separate settlement from Ulverston and the unbearable burden on an already inadequate infrastructure.

The following objections were put forward to inform planners of the real and genuine concerns of Swarthmoor residents, and are not examples of NIBYism.

BASIS OF OBJECTIONS

ACCESS / TRAFFIC / PARKING

Access, traffic flow and parking are key issues when considering any development in Swarthmoor.

- The settlement of Swarthmoor is divided by the A590, the main part being situated between the A590 / Trinkeld Lane and Park Road thus forming a rough triangle.
- Access from Park Road onto the A590 is hazardous due to the continual flow of traffic and a restricted view to the left. Traffic attempting to turn right towards Ulverston has to wait for occasional gaps in traffic in order to make this difficult manoeuvre.
- There is frequent congestion in Park Road as traffic (including heavy goods vehicles) enters from the A590 and is blocked by vehicles attempting to leave the village. This, together with the number of parked cars, already causes congestion on both roads and is therefore likely to be exacerbated by any increase in volume.
- The top end of Park Road (R685SW#) is already overwhelmed with drivers using the narrow road as a 'rat run' from the A590 and should development take place this problem would increase substantially.
- Parking between the A590 and Fox Street (R685SW#) has been a major problem for residents for many years. This is a narrow road without pavements and there is limited parking space to accommodate resident's cars and vehicles from Park Road Garage. Difficulty arises as vehicles attempt to pass each other in narrow sections of the road.
- Access to the A590 from Trinkeld lane at Cross-a-Moor already carries traffic from Swarthmoor, Urswick Road area and Croflands, and has a similar problem to Park Road.

- Should further development take place, access from the A590 via a developed R685SW to the proposed R686SW/ RN243#/ RN242#/ RN234# RN105# in particular would substantially increase traffic from the Ulverston direction along Park Road. This would result in the village becoming surrounded by three roads all carrying extra traffic. The play areas at the lower end of Park Road would then be sandwiched between R685SW# and 686SW# with increased traffic between the play areas and the children's homes.
- There would be increased danger to residents accessing Swarthmoor Hall Lane because of heavier traffic in an area without pavements. This lane is frequently used by people visiting the shop in Urswick Road over a mile away.

AMENITIES

- Despite previous housing developments the village has been unable to sustain the majority of its amenities. On past experience there is no reason to suggest that a further increase in housing would enhance the village in any way. There are presently no shops, the post office/shop being lost in the last round of closures.

BOUNDARIES / GREEN SPACE

- The stone wall running along Park Road forms the historic boundary between Swarthmoor and Ulverston. Any attempt to widen the road at this point would break all previous planning commitments to honour the boundary and keep the green area between the two settlements intact.
- Proposed development RN243# off Trinkeld Lane – this development would join Swarthmoor to Ulverston thus breaching the commitment to separation and inevitably leading to further infill building.

- The historic building of Swarthmoor Hall and its connection to the surrounding land and people creates a unique and peaceful space, which once lost could never be replaced. This should be preserved for future generations and not be allowed to be eroded by 'creeping development'.

AGRICULTURE /NATURE/ WILDLIFE

- All the land allocated is green field agricultural land. Whilst it has become easier for this category of land to be made available, there is a moral and environmental imperative to make this the last resort, and only when housing is urgently needed.
- It has been suggested that the mature trees in Park Road are preserved and are host to a bat colony. For this reason all previous attempts to change the grass verges surrounding them, for improved parking, have been refused by the land owner.
- The land between Swarthmoor and Ulverston provides a natural green space which is well used by walkers and cyclists thus enhancing the lives of residents from both settlements.

CONCLUSION

It is accepted that the present land allocation process is government led, however there has been no convincing case made for additional housing on this scale in the Ulverston area or for an out- of- proportion expansion in Swarthmoor. Residents are already unable to sell affordable homes in the village, which would beg the question, why more housing without the demand?

Residents of Swarthmoor consider that this stage of land allocation has been badly and unfairly executed. It would appear that residents on the opposite side of the A590, under pressure from previous development plans, have been asked to identify alternative sites. The latest map subsequently produced without the knowledge of those residents now affected by this new plan has already caused unnecessary division within the village.

Discovering the revised plan at this late stage has been a great shock to all concerned and is viewed with dismay. Failure to inform and involve Swarthmoor residents in the latest land allocation has led to a serious lack of confidence in the planning process and in no sense of the word could be considered local consultation. Residents putting forward this petition wish to alleviate the resulting division within the village by dealing with future plans in an open and transparent way involving all concerned.

This petition is put forward on behalf of residents in the Park Road area, as the short time scale for responses has made wider inclusion impossible.

In order to be given our right to a proper consultation, we are now asking for the whole village to be properly informed of the alternative proposals and to meet as a matter of urgency with representatives from both the Planning Dept and the Highways Agency.

Swarthmoor

Petition re: land allocation in Swarthmoor

FCLE

Chris Hodgson

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E. GREENWOOD

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ROGER WATKINSON

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CHER BARGH

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GARRY KIRKBY

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HL KIRKBY

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J. BRATT

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Patricia Herman -

sec.

Re: Land Allocation Petition R685SW#

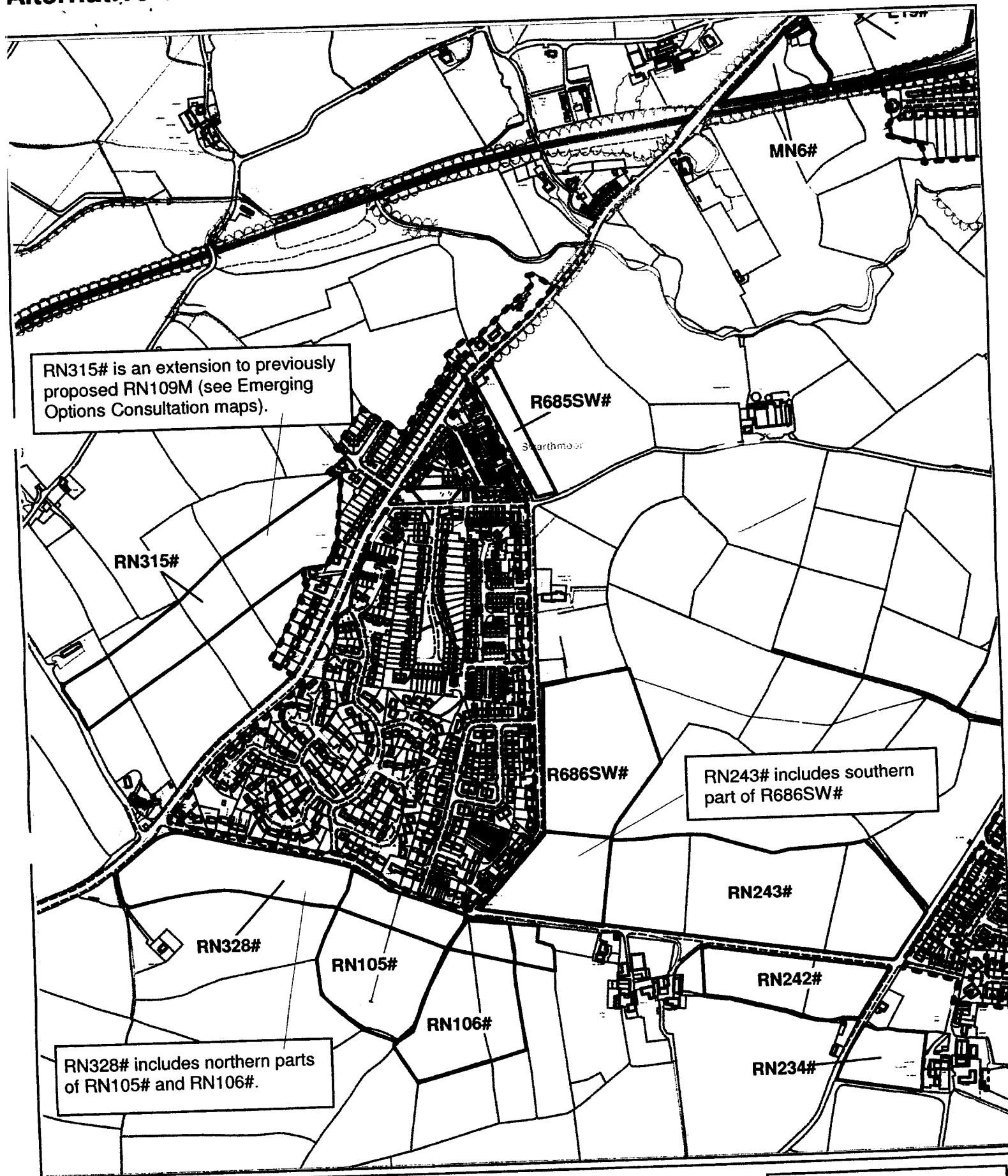
FCLC

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Gill Heed		
Mich Abbey		

already signed

Land Allocations Document - Further Consultation, Summer 2011

Alternative Sites Put Forward by Respondents to Consultation



Swarthmoor



Please refer to Emerging Options Consultation maps (January - April 2011) for sites previously considered.
www.southlakeland.gov.uk/landallocations

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Key

- Residential Land
- Employment Land
- Mixed Residential / Employment
- Other
- Development boundary

Pat Heiman

[REDACTED]

Subject: Quaker reply

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Summers
Date: 26/08/2011 15:18:10
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Planning permission

Dear Roy and Beryl Braithwaite,

I can reassure you that we have no intention of building on or selling any land.

With best wishes,

Richard

Richard Summers
General Secretary Quaker Life
Friends House

[REDACTED]

Sent: 16 August 2011 13:39
To: Richard Summers
Subject: Planning permission

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Quakers say: Each person is unique, precious, a child of God.