

Kendal

Development Plans Manager
South Lakeland House
South Lakeland District Council
Lowther Street
KENDAL Cumbria LA9 4DL

Cumbria

27 Mar 11

Dear Sir

SOUTHLAKELAND DEVELOPMENT PLANS

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BOWSTON

MAP NUMBER 16 SITE R664

CONSULTATION RESPONSE

I'm against above the proposed development at Bowston.

Bowston is a peaceful English hamlet in balance and at ease with is itself.

The owner of the proposed development land has no interest in local concerns and is motivated entirely by the capital gain from the land becoming "development land".

Bowston has no employment, no shops, no bus service, no railway station and no schools! The location is entirely rural. The development would lead to the destruction of a green field. Further, an open toxic dump (of soft bogey constituency) lies immediately to the south of the proposed development. It is clearly reckless to place housing development juxtaposition to an open toxic dump. The proposed site also "backs-up" in heavy rain and floods.

The argument the development is for local people to fill local jobs does not match the facts: the Bowston area has few jobs and no un-employment!

The idea that the development is for people working in the National Park is unacceptable. Housing should be built in the vicinity of where people's work is. If the National Park does not want its workforce to live within its boundary, then the Park has reached the limit of its natural development! Otherwise, we have an ideology which leads to a "gated" Park where one of type of person lives

in the Park and those that "service-it" live outside. Not acceptable.

In the 2008 LDF, the Bowston/Burneside area was identified as having socio-economic imbalances and yet more "affordable" housing is proposed. Anyway "affordable" is undefined, and without doubt second homes will be acquired in the development. Second homes are a root cause of the housing shortage across what was Westmorland.

Any residential development will entail hundreds of additional work related journeys through Bowston, its adjacent lanes and Burneside village out to work places away from Bowston with many headed to south of Kendal, including Lancashire since Bowston has no local employment. For others, the "back-road" from Burneside-to-Kendal was re-modelled (artificially narrowed, high curbs introduced, etc) by the Council to discourage use, so traffic will favour the route through Burneside village and to Kendal to further worsen the bottle next where the Burneside road joins the Windermere road in Kendal, near St Thomas's church. To the north, the Plantation Bridge Windermere Road/Winter Lane junction is a death trap, as evidenced recently.

Empty brownfield sites at Kirkland, Burneside Road, Gilling Grove and Highgate should be utilised, and what about the empty houses in Kendal. Also, some developments in the area are not selling. The proposed Bowston site is on the edge of the village on an existing boundary, on virgin agricultural land and the socio-economic case does not exist for the sites development. I'm against the proposed development at Bowston and it should not go ahead.

Yours faithfully

Signed on Original

R J Leather