

# APPENDIX 3

NTC  
24 MAR 2015  
GUARDIAN

Dear Mr Cathie

Having just read the notice of intention to dispose of open space land in the News Guardian dated March 12th of this year I am writing this letter to object about and ask some questions about the disposal of land at West Farm Wynd Longbenton.

I attended a meeting late last year at the Oxford centre Longbenton with a representative of ISOS housing. I asked the gentleman a few questions which were important to me but the answers he gave me were very vague and a question that he said he would 'look into', but since then I have not heard anything from him or ISOS. I would be grateful if you could answer my questions and any concerns I have.

1. The question he said he would 'look into' concerned parking. When these new houses are built valuable car parking spaces will be taken away from myself and my neighbours, at present there is an area which fits 3 cars which will be taken away by a road leading to the new houses. I asked the representative from ISOS about this and he told me they can park on the road outside of their houses. I explained to him that when cars park on the road outside of their houses (especially on the bend in the road) then another car cannot fit past it and instead has to mount the curb onto the grassed area (therefor churning up the grass) to get passed. The gentleman from ISOS did not appear to believe me and said he would 'look into it'. I have lived here for 7 years and can assure you that this IS the case. By removing the parking spaces people will be forced to park their cars ILLEGALLY on the pavement as this is the only way another car can pass. I would also like to say that even without ANY cars parked outside of their houses the refuse trucks cannot reverse around the bend without mounting the grassed area (churning up the

grass) so if as ISOS suggests that everyone parks outside their houses then it will be even more difficult for the refuse trucks to get down and will probably cause an eyesore as the grassed area will be churned up even more. I would also like to say that during winter when there has been ice and snow that it is EXTREMELY difficult for cars to get out onto the main street as they are sliding all over the road (if they can get out at all), at the moment no one needs to park their cars directly outside of their houses but, if as the representative from ISOS suggests we should do, their WILL be accidents. Again, having lived here for some time now I have experienced the difficulty in getting out of our corner location (sliding all over the road, asking neighbours and passers by to help push, even at one point having to abandon my car for the day in the middle of the road). My question to you is will you PLEASE look into this problem for me?

2. A couple of years ago my house was flooded. The cause of this was the storm drain at the top of my drive was what I can only describe as 'overwhelmed' by heavy rain which resulted in a flow of water heading down my driveway and into my house. This caused myself and my wife 12 months of living in an empty shell of a house. Building these new houses will take away a grassed area which absorbs the water and replace it with tarmac, this will all be on a slight hill leading straight towards my house (I'm sure you can see where I'm going here). My concern and question is will the drainage system be looked at to accomodate these new houses and if so what can you do to assure me that the tarmaced area will not cause more of a risk of my house being flooded again?

3. The plans I have seen show access to the new houses will be via the current access road making it a longer cul de sac. Would it not make more sense to have access to these new houses from the main street. This ( I feel) would make life easier for everyone, current residents, new residents, refuse collectors etc.

Having spoken to neighbours on either side of me ( a lot of whom could not attend the meeting at the Oxford centre) there is a lot of ill feeling towards new houses being built here. Mostly everyone sees it as ' another piece of green land where kids play being taken away'. I did ask the question to the representative from ISOS where will the kids play? He pointed out there was a park outside the Oxford centre. I then pointed out to him that this was regularly used by teenagers as somewhere to 'hang out'. His response was to shrug his shoulders.

Many many children use this area to play and people use it to walk their dogs and it looks like this is going to be taken away from them which is unfair. Myself and my neighbours, instead of having a beautiful grassed area that we look onto will now have the pleasure of (probably) looking at 7 foot high boards hiding a building site right outside our front door for the next 9

months which is also unfair. I would like to think that building these houses causes no disruption to myself or my neighbours.

It may be nice as a 'token' gesture if these houses were indeed to be built if a representative of the council or ISOS were to take a little time to call at the neighbours in the area to answer any concerns or questions they have. I feel that this would show that that at least people who 'make the decisions' have made the effort to actually speak to the people who this is going to affect. If my memory serves me correctly then the ISOS meeting at the Oxford centre was held on a week day, I'm sure you can appreciate that people have to go to work and could not attend a meeting in work time. I myself had to ask for a couple of hours off work to attend.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully