

Open

Special Ethics and Standards Committee

Agenda

6pm
Thursday, 30 September 2021
Council Chamber
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster



Ethics and Standards Committee

Members of Committee:

Chairman: Councillor A L L'Huillier
Vice-Chairman: Councillor S Griffiths

Councillor B S Dawes
Councillor S Miah

Councillor I Hardiman
Councillor M Rayner

Co-opted Members:

Independent Member
Independent Member
Parish Council Representatives

R Reynolds
Rev J A Cox
Councillors R Drew, D Killingworth and W Mack

Information for Members of the Public:

Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to request to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this Agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Part II of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of "Exempt Information" for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

There are particular circumstances when the Ethics and Standards Committee may exclude the public, which are in addition to those available at meetings of the Council, its Cabinet and Committees etc. These apply when the Ethics and Standards Committee considers the following:

Information relating to a particular chief officer, former chief officer or applicant to become a chief officer of a local probation board within the meaning of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

Information which is subject to any obligation of confidentiality.

Information which relates in any way to matters concerning national security.

Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI's and ODI's are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council's Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

For further information:

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information, you should contact Louisa Bright, Principal Committee and Member Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Telephone: 01562 732763 or email louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Wyre Forest District Council

Ethics and Standards Committee

Thursday 30 September 2021

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Appointment of Substitute Members To receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, together with the name of the Councillor for whom he/she is acting.	
3.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	Breach of Members Code of Conduct To receive a report from the Monitoring Officer to consider the formal complaint relating to the conduct of a District Councillor and the report of the Independent Person.	5

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
30 SEPTEMBER 2021

Breach of Members Code of Conduct

OPEN	
SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL	Monitoring Officer
CONTACT OFFICER:	Caroline Newlands, Ext. 2715
APPENDICES	Appendix 1 - Members Code of Conduct https://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-committees-and-meetings/constitution/section-14-code-of-conduct/ Appendix 2 - Complaint from the Head of Paid Service Appendix 3 - Independent Persons reports dated 23 August 2021 Appendix 4 - Full Transcript of meeting

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The public have high expectations of Councillors and Councillors have both an individual and collective responsibility to meet these expectations by maintaining high standards and demonstrating good conduct.
- 1.2 On the 12th August the Monitoring Officer (MO) received an allegation that a District Councillor had broken the Code of Conduct. This complaint was triaged by the MO and referred to the Independent Person (IP).
- 1.3 The Standards Committee is requested to consider the formal complaint relating to the conduct of a District Councillor and the report of the Independent Person.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Ethics and Standards Committee consider the formal complaint submitted to the Council by the Head of Paid Service under the Complaints against Councillors procedure and the report from the Independent Person and agrees an appropriate course of action.**

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 This Authority has a legal obligation to promote and maintain the high ethical standards that are required of Councillors. In addition, all Councils are required to adopt a Code of Conduct which applies to a Councillor as soon as they sign their declaration of acceptance of the office of Councillor and continues to apply until they cease to be a Councillor. The Wyre Forest Code is attached in full in Appendix 1. The Code includes the 10 principles of Public Life, namely:

Selflessness – members should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.

Honesty and integrity – members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly, and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

Objectivity – members should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits. **Accountability** – members should be accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular office.

Openness – members should be as open as possible about their actions and those of their authority and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

Personal judgement – members may take account of the views of others, including their political groups, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.

Respect for others – members should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers and its other employees.

Duty to uphold the law – members should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.

Stewardship – members should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that their authorities use their resources prudently, and in accordance with the law.

Leadership – members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

These principles apply to all forms of communication, including the various iterations of social media.

3.2 Code of Conduct

All Councillors are subject to the Member Code of Conduct, which includes the following provisions;

- You must not do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, the authority. (Officers work for the local authority as a whole and must be politically neutral. You must not prejudice their professional integrity)

- You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute. You must not disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where you have the consent of the person authorized to give it .

3.3 Allegation

It is alleged that in a streamed video made on the 26th July 2021 (one hour 8 minutes in total) and streamed live on the Councillors Facebook page, the councillor gave out the name of the street where the Conservation Officer lives.

A complaint has been received from the head of paid service on the 12th August 2021. The complaint is set out in Appendix 2.

Remedy requested by complainant:

I will want this taken to the ethics and standards committee even if Cllr Oborski takes down the video and apologises. It is incumbent that we seek to protect staff from the actions of rogue members. I shall also be looking for recommendations from the committee of penalties that the council could impose.

The social media stream posted by the Councillor also raises possible conduct issues, including:

- Avoidance of a Disclosable Public interest (DPI)
- Concealment of crowd funding contribution to the fundraising appeal
- Inappropriate comments relating to other Councillors as 'NOT VERY BRIGHT'
- Inappropriate derogatory comments about Worcestershire County Council
- Defamatory remarks relating to a service provider
- Encouragement to enter land without permission

3.4 Procedure

The complaint was received on the 12th August and was triaged by the Monitoring Officer and found eligible to refer to the Independent Person Mr Tim Hipkiss.

Following an investigation, the IP has reported to the Council and this is included in full in Appendix 3.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

5. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The District Council has a statutory duty to maintain high ethical standards. The role of councillor across all tiers of local government is a vital part of our country's system of democracy. It is important that councillors can be held accountable and adopt the

Agenda Item No. 4

behaviours and responsibilities associated with the role. The conduct as an individual councillor affects the reputation of all councillors.

Complaint from the Head of Paid Service - Disclosure of the address of a member of staff

I am complaining that this was a breach of the code of conduct which has been exacerbated by posting the video on line.

Disclosure of the address of a member of staff would, in my view, breach paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the general obligations

You must not ... do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, the authority [I have assumed for the time being that there was no malicious motive of intending to bully or harass the individual, or to encourage others to do so. The phraseology used may indicate what the motive was.]

You must not:

...disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where:

i. you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;

[It is plain that she did not have such consent and she will not be able to rely upon "the disclosure is reasonable and in the public interest".]

You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.

[Naming where staff live is always going to breach this provision, in my opinion. No employee of any organisation would expect his or her employer to reveal the address in a public meeting, without prior warning or consent, and particularly given the potential for resultant inappropriate behaviour by members of the public towards the employee in the circumstances of heightened tensions around a significant planning development.]

Assuming a breach is found to have taken place, I will want this taken to the ethics and standards committee even if Cllr Oborski takes down the video and apologises. It is incumbent that we seek to protect staff from the actions of rogue members. I shall also be looking for recommendations from the committee of penalties that the council could impose.

Report of the Independent Person – Mr Tim Hipkiss

RESPONSE/ RECOMMENDATION

I have read the complaints from Ian Miller, Chief Executive W.F,D.C. concerning video material circulated via Facebook by Councillor Oborski. Having studied the video in full, twice, of Councillor Oborski's meeting **I do believe Councillor Oborski has** breached the Code of Conduct of the Wyre Forest District Council in the following areas:

a) General Obligations 3.1 "You must treat others with respect". There are several instances where Councillor Oborski verbally and by facial expression derides fellow councillors,

"Now there are two councillors, not ones from round here. Two local councillors from Franche and Habberley North have already ruled themselves out of being able to vote because they have been publically campaigning on the "Stop Habberley Fields" idea. Well it is all very well, but to publically campaign on something and then rule yourself out of voting in the interest of your voters, does not strike me as being terribly bright, (body language, facial expression, raised eyebrows, pause for effect) so that is why we are being very careful not to put in writing anywhere how we feel.

and particularly the Highways Department of W.C.C. Councillor Oborski makes statements re W.C.C. Highways Authority "they're not on this planet" along with grimaces and raised eyebrows several times during this video.

There is also a possibility that some of Councillor Oborski's comments could be deemed to be libellous in particular her reference to Diamond buses. In the document provided to WFDC councillors "WFDC Social Media Web Page", April 2011 guidance is given as follows. "Please take care not to make libellous statements. This means a statement that lowers the reputation of a person or organisation in the eyes of a reasonable person". Councillor Oborski's comment regarding the safety of a proposed junction "... but I am worried that if anybody thinks that road junction is going to be safe, I am terrified and what is more there is going to be a bus route and the idea of Diamond coming out there and breaking down on the traffic lights or catching fire on the traffic lights, or whatever they are currently doing, it just scares the living daylights out of me". I believe this comment could be deemed libellous.

b) General Obligations 3.2.d You must not do anything which compromises the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, the authority.

Councillor Oborski makes a point about getting historic, archaeological evidence from the site "The County Council's Finds Officer should know. Right that is the point that we should make a note of, thanks, get hold of the County Council's Finds Officer. The other person that might know is <name of officer redacted> (correction by Councillor Miah... <name of officer redacted>) The District Council's Heritage Officer, the District Council's Heritage Officer, he's fairly local he lives on <name of street redacted>. We need to get hold of him."

<name of officer redacted> made a complaint about this matter to Ian Miller, C.E.O. W.F.D.C. Mr <surname> is very concerned as in a previous authority he and his family had suffered from the actions of objectors.

5 "You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute ..."

Councillor Oborski makes a series of statements that in my opinion bring her office into disrepute. Cllr. Oborski was encouraging people to mention wildlife species and finds found on the site when submitting their objections.

If anybody has evidence of rare species behind Offmore

Audience there is definitely Skylarks

Right well include that in your objections.

Audience "and the fields behind Munro Close there has been metal detectors on a regular basis recently",

Cllr. Oborski "has there")

Audience states "and if anybody has found anything they should have reported it to the Finds Officer".

Cllr Oborski continues "Right if anyone knows, if anyone has got a metal detector and wants to have a bit of fun in the field behind Munro Close and you find anything interesting

Audience – I have tried and I could not get permission, they wouldn't give me permission not when there is planting already in there, they would not give me permission, they would not give me permission when it was fallowed.

Cllr Oborski continues "Um was that ... Gateway when it was fallowed. When the crops have been pulled up go in there and do it. I would just go in there and do it, because you are not doing any damage....I know it is not approved of, but the trouble is who actually owns it."

This conversation indicates that Cllr Oborski is encouraging people to break the law. Such action I strongly believe clearly brings her office into disrepute and breaches the following two principles as well:

I considered the Ten General Principles of Public Life which is a reminder to Councillors that "These principles define the standards that members should uphold, and serve as a reminder of the purpose of the Code of Conduct".

And I considered that the Leadership principle has a bearing on my examination of the material. This principle states "members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence".

I did also consider Article 10(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights Article 10 is the right to freedom of expression and includes the right to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority, subject in Article 10(2) to qualification in respect of such specified public interest "formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law".

Whilst taking cognisance of this Article I do believe that 10(2) of this Article is pertinent as the behaviour which has given rise to the complaints is "in a political context".

I also feel there is a clear breach of the agenda Item 5 of the Ethics and Standards meeting of WFDC held on February 11th., 2015.

Pursuant to Schedule 4 of the Localism Act 2011 which places a duty on Principal Councils to promote and maintain high standards of conduct (s 27), The Ethics and

Standards approve the introduction of the arrangements as detailed in the Appendix, for Members who use inappropriate language on social media.

RECOMMENDATION

This is the fourth case I have had referred to me regarding comments Councillor Oborski has made on social media. As an experienced holder of senior posts at District and previously at County level Councillor Oborski should be aware of her obligations re social media. I do not believe that her continuing breach of the Code of Conduct of the Wyre Forest District Council displays conduct that upholds the General Principles of Public Life where "members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence".

I have in the past suggested that Councillor Oborski should be made aware of the case where Jack Monroe, a food blogger and Tweeter, won her libel case against the Daily Mail columnist Katie Hopkins and had been awarded £24,000 damages with a contribution of £107,000 towards costs, in a row over Tweets. The case has interested many legal observers as helping define the law of libel in the context of Twitter. Mark Stephens of Howard Kennedy said:

" People need to understand that being rude or defamatory on social media is permanent and indelible, and you can be sued".

As the recommendations for retraining and other such actions do not appear to have worked in trying to assist Councillor Oborski to conduct herself in line with the Wyre Forest District Council Code of conduct and there are very limited sanctions available I am at a loss to recommend anything to deal with this complaint. I feel extremely sorry for the Officer concerned and hope a solution to the breach of confidentiality can be found

A further issue, that was not in the complaint but has concerned me in reviewing all the material provided, is that there is a conflict between what Councillor Oborski says re her wish to remain as a member of the Planning Committee and her conduct throughout this Facebook video meeting. Several times she says she must not make a public comment as to her position yet I do feel a great deal of her information and presentation was not unbiased. However she makes repeated statements urging people to get their objections in to the contractors for the scheme and emphasises the Crowd Funding scheme to enable the group of objectors to the plan to secure legal and environmental specialist representation.

Despite my comments above, this meeting was an excellent example of a good local councillor supporting her constituents in a possible battle with a developer.

J.T. Hipkiss
Independent Person
Wyre Forest District Council,
Worcestershire C.C,
H&W Fire and Rescue

August 23rd 2021

FRAN OBORSKI

29th July 2021 at 11.09

Meeting for Woven Oaks Site Development

...And their consultants are Covid scared, so they met a small group of representative residents from the East of the estate mainly, earlier this evening.

Are you starting? We are live streaming this meeting via my Facebook page and it will be available for people who aren't here you know, if they wanted to look at it subsequently. You have all had the it is so small you couldn't darn well read it even with a magnify glass consultation document from Taylor Wimpey. You have probably all had a leaflet from residents against Woven Oaks, they have done a Facebook page running, so have we. They are also doing some crowd funding because they do intend to employ a private planning consultant with a highway's consultant, but none of that can be done until there is a planning application. Now the situation at the moment is that the East of Kidderminster extension is part of the District Council's draft local plan which there were public meetings on, I think the first public consultation by the District Council was probably in 2015, as councillors we held meetings in 2015, 2016, and 2017 and 2019 from memory and quite a few of you came to those.

The actual proposal and it is only at the moment a proposal from Taylor Wimpey takes in 3 sites in the District Council's draft local plan. A site behind Offmore, which is effectively above from Ashdean Close up but at the back there of 300 houses with a junction out onto Husum Way, just above the Shakespeare Drive junction, which I think most of us think is quite the most dangerous suggestion anybody has heard of in a very long time. That bit is 300 houses, there is then a proposal for 1,100 houses, which are effectively behind Borrington Park, so they are all the other side of the Brooke and they would have access where the access will come in they say off the Spennells Valley Island, well it actually comes in off the slip road that used to lead to Stourminster School, so it will come in to that slip road and then go up there. There is a further 10 houses at that end and I think there is a small development just adjacent to Comberton Lodge, which for those of you that know it is the last house in Kidderminster as you go towards Bromsgrove, you have got Heathy Mills Farms Barns, you have got Heathy Mills itself, the farmhouse and then you have got a bit of open, what was nursery land and then you have got that large detached house which is set back from the road on the bend and that is Comberton Lodge and there is a further 10 houses just adjacent to that.

I will say it for all of you, as I have said it in the first meeting and some of you heard me say it several times, the law on planning is very very restrictive as far as councillors are concerned. If we publicly campaign on a planning issue then we are forbidden to vote on it when it comes to council, and Shazu and I and Alan Totty who sends his apologies by the way with he only got a fortnights holiday from work this year and he is actually in a caravan somewhere on the Lincolnshire coast, I believe.

We the three of us are not able publicly to state where we stand on this potential application because we don't want to be told that we have predetermined it and we

can't therefore vote at council. The situation at the moment is a planning inspector held a public enquiry during mainly January and February this year, and she did it on-line. Councillor Alan Totty was the only councillor who actually spoke at the meeting, at that planning enquiry and he specifically spoke and was making the point about the need that if there was anything that came out at this end of the estate you had to have a separate railway bridge so that it could go up to the Birmingham Road, but the three of us cannot publicly show our hand at the moment.

The situation is that the planning inspector held her enquiry in January and February. Sometime in September, she will produce her draft report and send it to the District Council. Any changes that she proposes in that draft report, whether she proposes to leave sites out, or put additional sites in, any changes she proposes will have to go to public consultation. That public consultation will probably take place in about October. The results of that public consultation will then be reported back to the council and back to the planning inspector. Those public consultation responses will be considered and then sometime around next January or February, the planning inspector will send the District Council her final local plan and the District Council will have to decide whether or not to approve it.

So obviously. Now there are two councillors, not ones from round here. Two local councillors from Franche and Habberley North have already ruled themselves out of being able to vote because they have been publicly campaigning on the 'Stop Habberley Fields' idea. Well it is all very well, but to publicly campaign on something and then rule yourself out of voting in the interest of your voters, your electors, does not strike me as being terribly bright, so that is why we are being very careful not to put in writing anywhere how we feel.

If the plan is not approved anyway, then the Secretary for State for the Environment and the Minister for Housing. I will get it right now. The Housing Communities, and Local Government minister generic gets involved and they probably instruct Wyre Forest to consult, and I do not know what. So that is what happens if it does not get approved. If the plan does get approved, and this planning application in some form then comes before the District Council, Shazu and Alan will be able to campaign publicly because they aren't on the District Council Planning Committee. I am on the District Council Planning Committee and I don't want to not be able to vote, one way or the other. I don't want to be told that I have predetermined my opinion whether I have or not. I want to be allowed to vote on it when it comes to planning, so you won't see Fran jumping up and down in the press on focus news, but you might see Shazu and Alan jumping up and down.

Now we had this earlier meeting with the Taylor Wimpey and their representatives. What they are proposing is two separate planning applications, and by the way I have asked them to consider extending their public consultation period to the end of September, because there is an absolute rule the District Council does not carry out major consultations in July or August, and pointed out to them that Holy Trinity School broke up on July the 12th, all the other schools have now broken up and so to have a consultation period that goes into the school holidays does not sound as if it is treating local residents with an awful lot of respect, so we have asked them to extend their

consultation period. Assuming that we get away with that, what they intend to do sometime in the Autumn, but they admit that no planning application will be considered until after the local plan has been determined, but their current proposal is that sometime in the Autumn, they will put in two planning applications. Assuming that the whole site is still in the local plan as proposed by the inspector they will put in an outline proposal for the entire area and they will put in a detailed proposal of 400 houses at the bottom of the plan, if you have got the little plan in front of you, you can see that little pink blob there, they are going to put in a proposal for 400 houses at the bottom which would be accessed from the Spennell's Valley road and Stourminster layby.

That proposal includes the community space which has now been moved nearer to the Comberton Road and which is designed to provide a two-form entry primary school, a community facility. They say they are in consultation with a doctors/GP practice in Kidderminster and they say that is to provide a doctor's surgery and it will also have some sort of local shop, plus a community centre of some variety. If the entire development went ahead, which is 1,450 houses, it would require a two-form entry primary school and the proposal as far as Taylor Wimpey are concerned is to build the two-form entry primary school right at the start and gradually fill it. Primary schools have to be built as academy's so they will be asking one of the active local academy trusts to sponsor that school. My guess is Four Stones which is the multi-academy trust that includes King Charles, Haverage, and now includes a school in Evesham. But I mean, there is no guarantee, but I would guess that that would probably be the academy trust that would be most interested. The school would be definite. They say they are in consultation with a GP practice, that is fine, I don't know anywhere holding a GP practice or the NHS down to providing anything, but certainly the school would be guaranteed, and what they are saying is that if the local plan is approved in its current form they will put in a planning application for an initial 400 houses. They would expect to get planning permission for that some time probably next Autumn and they think it would take them some 4 years to build 400 houses. Now the whole of the Wyre Forest overall plan which is supposed to provide an extra 5,200 or something houses in the district is due to be completed between 2018 and 2036, so the finish date for developments in the local plan is 2036.

The one thing that residents that we spoke to earlier were most insistent about is that if there is to be any suggestion of a spine road through the new estate and they say that county highways wants them to provide a spine road with a 20 mile an hour speed limit. The only way that you can persuade them to a 20 mile an hour speed limit is to have speed bumps every 50 yards. That is fine, if that is what they want to do, but the only way that residents who met them earlier though it would be marginally acceptable was to have a second railway bridge.

The current proposals envisage a T-junction coming out on to Husum Way between the railway bridge and the Shakespeare Drive junction. If you drive over from the Birmingham road over the railway bridge and look to your left there is a 6 to 8 foot drop between the road and the field, and we did make the point to them very clearly and they obviously hadn't realised this that anybody that drives over from the Birmingham Road onto this estate knows in bad weather in winter the last bit of ice to thaw is from the slip road to the entrance of the Husum Way houses above the bridge and the

Shakespeare Drive junction and I have lost count of the number of times I have come over that in the winter and slid gracefully from the railway bridge down to Shakespeare Drive. It is alright sliding gracefully from the railway bridge down to Shakespeare Drive at the moment, but can you imagine sliding down there with a set of red traffic lights and a jam in front of you. I think we made a very strong point to them. The crazy bit of the whole thing is that various speculatively development companies have got options on all the land round Kidderminster.

Taylor Wimpey have only got the bit that is on this plan and a totally separate company called something like Marston Homes, I don't think it is anything to do with the brewery, has got the field opposite the Husum Way houses, plus the Husum Way junction and the last we heard about that was a very sensible suggestion that to develop that bit of white land as it is on here that they are going to move the existing Husum Way junction, swing the road to the right they are going to swing the Hurcott Lane junction slightly to the left, they are going to create a very large traffic island which will give access to Husum Way, Hurcott Lane and into the new development. That is a great idea that is what has been wanted since this estate has been built, but the logical thing would be to bring that traffic island, bring the road into that field build your 30 houses, but then build a new railway bridge and do any development behind Offmore being accessed from that new railway bridge.

What is really important now, what is going to happen. Have any of you not put comments on the Taylor Wimpey site yet? If you haven't, can you please do it this week. I know when you go on the site it asks you to register and some people were worried about this idea of registering because you are giving them your email address and your contact details, that you might be worried that they are going to turn up and bang at your door. You do not have to register you can just send them an email with your objections. I would just urge anybody who doesn't think that a junction on Husum Way is going to be safe to write and tell them that, because that is incredibly important. The other thing they are currently suggesting something like a 10 to 20 metre tree bund, planting bund behind all the existing houses. It needs to be 30 metres at least and you also need to be telling that you should be planting mature trees. If somebody goes and plants 20 metres of 3ft high whips then the ones that do not get pulled up by the little local darlings, will still take 10 to 15 years to turn into a tree. You can buy semi-mature 10 to 15ft trees, and if they are going plant trees behind houses, that is what they have got to plant.

Audience: Why does it not show on their plan?

It does show a green line. No, they say that is 10 to 20 metres right, to be honest the scale of this is pretty enormous. I mean it is a pretty enormous area shrunk down to a tree, so basically we need people to point out that if they are going to go ahead, and I say, if anybody thinks a railway bridge is not necessary, that is fine and you are totally entitled to your opinion, but I am worried that if anybody thinks that that road junction is going to be safe, I am terrified and what is more there is going to be a bus route and the idea of Diamond coming out there and breaking down on the traffic lights or catching fire on the traffic lights, or whatever they are currently doing, it just scares the living daylights out of me.

So, I think the big issue is that. There is an issue about bird life. Now the reasons Spennell's fields got rejected is because they actually do have corn cranes nesting on the site and skylarks nesting there. If anybody has any evidence of rare species nesting on the land behind Offmore.

Audience (there is definitely skylarks, Yes).

Right well include that in your objections, please. There is definitely bats there, there are bats roosting in the semi-derelict barns, or sheds or wherever you like industrial sheds that are behind the Offmore court development and they are talking about creating a dark corridor to protect bats and things like that. I know there are foxes there and there are badgers there, and um that is of course a protected species and we do also have bats to deal with.

There is also up behind the Husum Way and Munro Close houses in the fields there. There is a historic irrigation site, there is some historic land irrigation that was installed by the Earl of Dudley in either 1880 something or 1910, sometime in that sort of period and that is of historic interest. Um one of the guys that has organised residents against Woven Oaks says there is evidence of 3 Victorian wells somewhere on the site. Anybody with any historical knowledge of anything, you can include that in your objection. Um, when they put a planning application into Wyre Forest District Council the Council by law will have to carry out a full public consultation and this by law, they have to give 3 weeks of public consultation.

Taylor Wimpey have agreed that when they put in the detailed planning application for the 400 off Comberton Road they will hold further consultation, and what we will get them to do when they put that in is to hold a public consultation down at the King Charles Lower School site. Yes.

Audience – (and the fields behind Munro Close there has been metal detectives on a regular basis recently)

has there.

Audience - (and if anybody has found anything, they should have reported it to the Finds Officer)

Right if anyone knows, if anyone has got a metal detector and wants to go and have a bit of fun in the field behind Munro Close and you find anything interesting

Audience – (I have tried and I could not get permission, they wouldn't give me permission not when there is planting already in there, they would not give me permission they would not give me permission when it was fallowed)

Um, was that Mm Gateway when it was fallowed. when the crops have been pulled up go in there and do it. I would just go in there and do it, because you are not doing any damage.

Audience – (That is called nice walking in extreme).

I know it is not approved of, but the trouble is, who actually owns it.

Audience – (the point is, if he has found anything the council's Finds Officer should know.

County Council's Finds Officer should know.

Audience – Yes.

So that is. Right, that is the point that we should make a note of thanks, get hold of the County Council's Finds Officer. The other person that might know is <name of officer redacted>.

Audience - I have found pottery in there, I have quite a bit of it, which I have spoken to Birmingham University about.

What did they say?

She told me that I had to put it on the Finds, but as it is illegal that I should not have been in the field then I didn't. If you speak to Historic England, they can arrange for you to have access to that site. I have just taken their number down to try and arrange access to that site with a metal detector.

If you let me have it I will arrange. Have you got the details?

I haven't I have only got Historical England I can email that over to you.

If you can get that over to me in the next 24 hours, I am going to send a leaflet over to the printers and I will get that in it. Well yes, you want to get in touch with Historic England about permission to find things on there, we know as I said, we know there is a historic irrigation system and the person who can also help on that is <name of officer redacted>

<surname of officer redacted> his name is

<surname of officer redacted> the District Councils

<surname of officer redacted>

oh, sorry <name of officer redacted> the District Council's Archeological

Heritage Officer

Heritage Officer, he also will know anything that is historical and is on site. So we do need to get that done. But I think...

Audience – Actually he is very supportive of anything of, opposing it, Yes, although he is a District Council Officer, he is very supportive of anything that we might be able to give to him to put....

So, we will get hold of <name of officer redacted> he is a fairly local resident he lives on <name of street redacted>, he is quite local.

We, if they would just build, I mean one of the things that we have also said to them just said to them. It is the County Council that wants them to do a spine road all of the way through. It is not actually Taylor Wimpey. The idea of it linking through is the County Council's, so we need to be making sure that the County Highways and some

of you would have heard me say many times they don't live on the same planet as the rest of us, um but we need to get onto them about it. I think Taylor Wimpey would actually be quite happy to have most of the development going out onto the Comberton Road and then if it was just that, the District Council could probably be persuaded to tell them that as one of their conditions on their planning permission they have to put traffic calming through the whole of Tennyson Way, because otherwise we just get used as even more of a local bypass than we are already. I mean the point is, if they did their spine road and they did it with a separate railway bridge and they took it out onto the Birmingham Road then they would be creating an eastern bypass through their new estate and the people who brought houses on it would be living on an estate that had a bypass route on it, in the same way as people who brought houses on Silverwoods have brought houses knowing that they were living on a link road between the Worcester Road and the Stourport Road.

Audience: and Husum Way.

Yeah but we want to bypass

Audience: I mean Husum Way is a spine road at the moment

Yeah at the moment Offmore is a spine road at the moment, which we were never told that it was supposed to be and it has not got adequate traffic calming. Yes

Audience: What is the point of the the gated access.

The gated access, it is nothing to do with the road, we all thought it was. They say they are in negotiations with the District Council. That if the estate gets developed there is an awful lot of green space there, right. The gated access is so that the District Council's Ranger Department can every year or two come and put a temporary fence up and graze the land with the Dexter's and the highland cattle that they use on the Spennell's nature reserve and the other nature reserves and those Dexter's are absolutely gorgeous, they are sort of little black cows that are about that high and the highland cattle are those gorgeous ginger things with the wicked horns, and the District Council does have herds of both of those that it moves round nature reserves, so the idea is that part of the nature reserve land that they would be incorporating in the development would be grazed by the cattle managed by the District Council. It seems to me that we all need to get comments into Taylor Wimpey before the end of this week. We want them to redo their consultation and we have asked them to, but I can't guarantee that they will, we will ask them to reconsult in September. They will then, sometime towards the latter half of this year, they will put in their two planning applications, but they can't be considered until the local plan is finalised. They will put in the one planning application for the generic outline permission for the whole thing and then they will put in the detailed planning application for the 400 houses which are basically behind Borrington Park and slightly behind Dunclent Crescent. Yep

Audience: going back to the school.

Yes

Audience: can we assume that Taylor Wimpey are only going to sell houses to people with infants.

No there is, the County Council has done an analysis of secondary school places in Wyre Forest. There is no need for a new secondary school, there is need for two new primary schools. There will be a need for a primary school on the Lea Castle site which will feed Wolverley High where there is room to have some extension and an extra primary school on this site would feed mainly King Charles, which does have room to take extra pupils in. The county is absolutely certain that we don't need additional secondary school places to serve Kidderminster. They do the calculations. One thousand houses are needed for a 2-form entry primary school

Audience: Are Severn Trent going to announce a solution to

All of that will be discussed with Severn Trent and the developers are aware of the fact that Borrington Park, 50% of it, if you are standing facing the park the left hand side dog walking area on the left hand side of the field is all bog anyway. One of the proposals you will see on their little plan seems to suggest that it is going to bring a cycling and pedestrian access across Borrington Park. We have very very firmly told them that the reason that that Park is locked at six o'clock at night and not opened until about 9 o'clock in the morning is because of the drug dealing and heaven alone what else has been known to go on down there and there is absolutely no way that anybody is going to sit back and let them create an open cycling and pedestrian link from the one estate to the other through Borrington Park. When we pointed out to them that on a rainy day you lose your wellies in the mud they suggested putting a boardwalk down and I did point out to them that a boardwalk is if you leave it open 24 hours a day you can make a lovely bonfire from the boardwalk.

Audience: what about the other cycle track?

Is this the one that comes down where the current nursing home and where everything is

Audience: The community orchard, as they are calling it.

Yes, we have also raised the point of the community orchard, and they are now rethinking that and they are possibly thinking about it in terms of allotments and that of course is ok, because if you get an allotment site, you get it fenced off, you get an Allotment Management Committee and you don't get 24 hour a day access to it.

Audience: talking over each other.

Yes I think that is something else anybody that lives down there need to make the point that we don't actually want those links, because I am not quite sure if you are building a totally separate estate, I am not quite sure, but I have no objection to where they are proposing their road junction on Husum Way, they can have a cycling and pedestrian access there if they want to as long as it is not wide enough for vehicles.

Audience: I don't know where they get separate estate from when it is virtually on our back gardens.

Exactly and that is why it needs to be at least 30 metres of trees.

Audience: 30 metres is nothing. It is marginal.

Well 30 metres is 90ft and if that is closely planted trees.

Audience: we have already got mature trees there already

Which bit?

Audience: At the end of Prior Close

Yeah at the end of Prior Close you have, but I am thinking at the end of Rossetti Close and the end of Munro Close where you have just got open field at the moment. I mean the pensioners who live in those bungalows in Rossetti Close they have got a fence at the end of the close, at the end of the cul-de-sac at the end of the gardens and then you have got the field and you have unsure presence mainly. As you get lower down the estate there is more tree planting there, it is the top end of the estate, particularly Rossetti and Munro where it looks incredibly thin to me. Usually planners would say that 30 metres is a reasonable bund to put between developments or between a road and houses.

Audience: we are talking about this as though we are accepting it, you know surely if it hasn't gone from green belt there and you allow them to build their 400 houses that is just the start of it.

I think the point is it all depends what goes through the local plan, right. If the whole thing goes through the local plan then the only thing, we can get is mitigating actions like a separate railway bridge, like increased planting. If none of it goes through the local plan, then the district council has got to find sites for 1400 houses somewhere else in the district.

Audience: I would have thought that was quite easy just use money on the brown field sites.

No, the brown field sites are all included.

Audience: Are they?

Yes, every single brown field in Wyre Forest is zoned for either housing or for employment use. Every single one of them.

Audience: but what about this is prime A grade, we have come out of Brexit.

It is grade 3a agricultural land, it is not grade 2 it is 3a is was last time I spoke to Mark Blakeway before he died, he said it was 3A and you need government. The only people who can change the presumption that 3A can be taken out of the green belt are central government. We are in this mess because of the government has decreed that Wyre Forest District Council has to provide 276 houses a year between now and 2036 and in order to do that somewhere around 3000 of them have to go on what is currently green belt, because the problem we have got is that everything this side of the river is green belt. The only green field non-green belt land we have got in Wyre Forest is the other side of the River Severn. We already had the Gladman development proposals which weren't green belt, but they were in Bewdley and it was an area of outstanding beauty and that got turned down the planning inspector wouldn't have it. The only green field sites; there is a bit in Bewdley along the bypass,

there is a bit by the Heron's Nest down the back there and there is some the other side of the river in Stourport including Pearl Lane and that area, part of which is in Malvern Hills and part of which is in Wyre Forest.

Audience: You are saying that this is inevitable that is going to go.

I don't think it is inevitable that all of this is going to go, as there are other sites that weren't considered that could have been considered.

Audience: what are those? Have they actually brought this land?

No, they have an option on it. Taylor Wimpey have got an option on all of this. Furziman have got an option that goes up almost as far as Wolverley on that side of the road. As I said something call Marsden Homes has got the little field off Husum Way. Most of the big developers have got options on land all round Wyre Forest.

Audience: can I just show my ignorance; how does this option come about? Did Taylor Wimpey approach them and they said oh yes, I will sell it to you for free.

What happened was that's when the council is creating a local bank he puts out what is called a call for sites, which basically means it advertises on the internet if any land owners in this area who are interested in their land being developed, please come forward. The family company that owns the Blakeway's farm put forward their land. Hurcott Jersey or whatever they are now called, because that is the company that changes its name as often as some of you change your socks guys, which owns the land on the other side of the Birmingham road moving over to Hurcott, they put forward all that area. Various other bids got put forward by other landowners and then the planning consultants looked at which were compatible. Furziman had and I don't know if they have still got it a sleeping interest in part of the Spennell's fields. I wouldn't be surprised if they didn't still have it, because it might be safe till 2036 but somebody is going to be revising the plan in about 5 years' time to look at the roll on figures, but as I said the big problem is that we are under the cosh from central government who are telling us what we have got to build.

Audience: in answer to your question, I think there is a commercial remit between Taylor Wimpey and the owners of that land, they don't own the land but they have the option to purchase all of it when their plans go through. So Yes.

They have got an option.

Audience: Surely though Fran, if they start building the 400 houses.

Yes.

Audience: Then that is the start of it.

Well they can't

Audience: then the disease will spread. They are not just going to have half the farmland, if they are going to build the school then it is all over, they are going to build all of it

No, not necessarily because the school needs a 1000 and 1100 of the houses are the access off the Comberton Road bit.

Audience: but surely the farmer Mark Blakeway deceased now, or whatever. Surely, they are not going to sell part of their land, what good is the rest of the their land, they will sell it all surely.

No, they have got loads more land.

Audience: talking over each other.

Well come on, why not, well why not come on they have got thousands of acres, they don't just own that bit there.

Audience: Then what happens to the land that doesn't get sold.

They carry on farming it.

Audience: We heard that when Mark Blakeway was still alive, he actually told a friend of ours that he would just buy another farm.

He said that. Mark Blakeway said that if the whole lot got into the local plan, so he was therefore selling the whole lot for building, he would use the money to buy another farm.

Audience: Blakeway's do not actually own the land behind Offmore do they. Mark Blakeway told me that they owned the land from Heathy Mill up as far as they want to build, if you turn left past Offmore they rent that ground.

I don't know who they rent it from.

Audience: The person Penny Bright who lived in the that house originally her brother owns that farm.

Yeah, but Taylor Wimpey have an option on the lot.

Audience: yeah, I am just saying Blakeway's do not own all of it.

They do rent some of the land, they don't own all of it, and they could carry on farming that bit.

Audience: can I just say as well. You are talking here as if this is a full gone conclusion, I know you are not.

No

Audience: that road my main concern is that that road, we back onto that field and we appreciate what we have got, but that entrance onto Hurcott/Husum Way is a big NO NO. You keep telling us that it is absolutely stupid, but the Wyre Forest Council, when they passed the outline plan, they will do something.

No.

Audience: they will spot a technical issue and.

No County Highways.

Audience: they will do it.

No County Highways will be the people who make that decision not the District.

Audience: No exactly, that is what I mean and then they will do it

As I have said on many occasions County Highways don't live on the same damned planet as the rest of us. But one of the things that the residents against Woven Oaks group is doing is crowd funding and one of the things that they have crowd funding for is to employ an independent planning consultant and an independent Highways expert and when we were in that smaller meeting earlier that Highways guy who was there did not look over confident about that proposal for that junction, I think, I don't, I think he knew that..

Audience: no, he knew it was stupid straightway, everyone knew when they looked at that junction and everyone knows, it was not even an option.

As I said, because County Highways don't live on the same damned planet as the rest of us

Audience: What happens is, the Highways people they live in their little book of rules

Yes

Audience: and that little book of rules says that for a 40 mile an hour roadway the site line is 120 metres and it is just about 120 metres from the top of the bridge down to that persons garden, and at that point the most sensible place where the ground is level, as we said earlier there is a 6ft drop and the 6ft drop peters away to nothing at that point and it is just about legally right, just about, that is what they will look at, they won't look at ice in the winter and this and that and the other, and what they will look at is say ok maybe we can alleviate some of your concerns we will put a traffic roundabout there, then everything will come to a stop and equal right of way we will put that there, and they will say box ticked, lovely. So, all of the huffing and puffing that we do won't stop any of that going through, no chance.

Hang on, I don't think it is true to say you have no chance, and I think, the point is, and I know there is some funding available by some generous donors is to get as good a Planning Consultant and as good as Highways Consultant as can possibly be got so that when if, and we don't yet know if it will, that if it comes to a formal planning application, if it is in the final local plan um, and then um, we will have a real fight at the planning committee.

Audience: can I just say, sorry their Highways Inspector just clarified actually

only just

Audience: that they only just meet the criteria that needs to be met in order for them to go ahead.

Only just.

Audience: only just, so we asked who are they? who are they working for? He said he of course is working for Taylor Wimpey and he said that will go to an independent

Highways person, so I asked who that is, and it was Vectos, someone who they always work with. So even their independent Highways Consultant isn't really very independent. So I think.

That is why we've have got to have a really independent planning consultant

Audience: if residents can get together, I did speak to a lawyer and they were saying that the best way to get anything like this overturned would be to speak to an independent

Planning Advisor

Yeah and the road. Can I just say there is a gentleman who lives on Shakespeare Drive who is an engineer who has worked on some major projects, and on Birmingham Airport and alike, and he is very knowledgeable and he actually took the bridge number down for Husum Way and looked at all the details, and before the original plan went through before it went to the local government, he looked at it and said as it is, existing traffic on the bridge the independent traffic count and the weight of things were going over there, that bridge is only borderline as to whether it would be acceptable for any additional traffic anyway.

Which is why

Audience: Which is why you need an independent planning advisor. That is the route to go down, and because basically what Taylor Wimpey are saying and how it works from what I can gather, is that they are only just meeting those requirements. Literally. So, if you can get someone from the traffic department who is truly independent, they are going to be able to meet that department. I think the bottom line is that it needs everybody here and everybody you can get in touch with, to make sure you put in your point

You all put in your objections now

Audience: Also, when it does. It is all well and good voicing your opinion to Taylor Wimpey, but also I think I am right in saying that if the application is accepted, as soon as there is an application number for the plan, then everyone needs to contact Wyre Forest

yes

Audience: Council and put your concerns in with the Council because Taylor Wimpey is all well and good telling them. Before this happened, I went round the top of Offmore taking in several hundred houses and went door to door and made a point, and it surprised me the number of people who were not aware of what was happening.

We held certainly 3 public meetings and the number of people who said that they did not know anything about it, and I am like, how long have you lived here?

Audience: but it is not public land it is private land, whereas on Spennell's you can go all over. People can go dog walking, don't know.

The point is on Spennell's all those fields are criss crossed by public rights of way, the fields behind Offmore there is no legal right for anybody to be on

Audience: People don't know they exist, they don't know the wildlife in that area, they don't know. Why don't they know?

We put it out in leaflets we held 3 public meetings, some of you were at those meetings, but a lot of people weren't and are now saying they didn't know anything about it. I did say to one lady, how long have you lived there, and she said 2015, and I said to my knowledge you have had at least 10 leaflets from us that were full of the darn thing. Plus, the public meetings. She said, Oh I didn't, perhaps I didn't read them, so I am sorry.

Audience: a lot of people don't. They just shove them in the bin.

They don't read things, but I think the point is at the moment there are two things that you can all do that really helpful. One, everybody put your objections into Taylor Wimpey

Audience: can we do it as just an email? With all those independent headings?

You can do it as an email, no you don't have to do all those headings you can just do it as an email. The other thing is, you have got a crowd fund going, haven't you. Please if you can give £5, if you can give £10, if you can give a £100, whatever you can give, this is really a case of the widow's might be useful. If you can give anything to the residents against Woven Oaks crowd fund appeal, they are going to use it to employ an independent Planning Consultant and an independent Highways Consultant to work together so that if it comes into the local plan, if, and if the district council then ends up having to submit a planning application, you the residents will have very strong fully independent voices speaking on their behalf.

Audience: and if I can add to that point, because I am a representative of that group. Let me be very clear this will not be won or lost based on a thousand people whinging about badgers and bats. No no it won't. No, I know. No this will be won on a technicality that may not be within our particular gift to highlight it. So the point is, is instead of a 1,000 people whinging individually it is best to put all our energy into a focussed way of doing it and from that we stand by far the best chance of finding that achilleas heal that nobody can argue with. Do you want these donations now straightaway? Yes, the Gateway fund is live right now, so you can donate right now.

Yes, you can donate right now, they are not going to spend it, until they need to. Yes, you do need to, the one thing that is very little use, I know that petition signatures were collected at the Borrington bash on Saturday, but I have to tell you that...

(everybody laughed)

Well put it like this, I have been a councillor since 1973 and I have lost count of the number of petitions I have seen collected in this town and I have lost count of the number of times that Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, Ivor Bigun, and god knows who else has signed them. There is unfortunately the idiot brigade who think it is incredibly funny to put something totally irrelevant as a signature on a petition and all that does

is devalue the whole petition. An individual letter or individual emails when it comes to the Council for consultation, an individual letter or individual email carries a lot more weight than any petition does, because bluntly people will sign anything to get you off their doorstep. You turn up on the doorstep with a petition and they would rather be watching telly, or having their tea or bathing their baby, or walking the dog or whatever so they sign it to get you off the doorstep. So please individuals, there are 33 members of Wyre Forest District Council. I am not convinced that the local plan will get approved by the council, but I have done a little bit of talking to one other major party, um who are not happy. Certainly, if the proposals for 150 extra houses in Blakedown are in the final plan, then I think that guarantees that the Conservatives will go and vote for it, because they don't want it in Blakedown. Basically, I don't care what anybody's reasons are, I would not bet on that local plan going through because I know there are two members of the administration who can't vote for it, so that cuts it down to 31, so we have only got to get 16 councillors to vote against it if the plan is not what we want, but we don't know what is going to be in it yet, we are speculating. Gentleman at the back with the yellow shirt on.

Audience: I would like to know who that group are supposedly 99albiheart, because I have not heard anything from them.

Where do you live.

Offmore Farm Close,

I did

in the field, basically.

Yeah, I know where you are. Right the situation is that I printed some leaflets for the residents.,

Audience: People don't like coming up my drive

for residents against Woven Oaks. I thought they delivered everywhere, but I don't know if they did Offmore Farm Close, have you got any of the leaflets spare?

Audience: I don't have any leaflets, but if you go on face book and search residents against Woven Oaks there are a list of comments. My worry is that a lot of people don't look at the data, they don't use the internet. There is a lot of elderly people.

There is a lot of people who don't use the internet.

Audience: We are making assumptions about technology here (all talking over each other). This is where we need to make them aware that they need to speak to elderly neighbours and just generally get the word out as there is no better way of doing it.

Right residents against Woven Oaks has absolutely no physical involvement at all but I am quite happy to include your go funding page on a leaflet that we are printing this weekend.

Audience: Can I just make a point to your question, in the event if the local plan doesn't go through by the government planning council and doesn't go through to the

main stage and the crowd fund that is taking place, is that money going to be used for an independent source, or is it going to be held?

It will be held until there is a planning application that it is needed for.

Audience: just to make it clear to everybody, there is no one beneficiary to any of that money, and in the event that it became unnecessary to fight this application, what happens to the funds?

We would offer your money back, I would assume.

Audience: Yeah, we can do that through crowd funding.

Just a minute, I have got a lady here Chevonne:

I have got some leaflet in the car; shall I do and get them.

Can you just do a quick chivvy out the back door, luv.

Audience: we live on the Spennell's Estate and on the approach to the Spennell's Road island they have already started to build houses

No that is a totally different application,

ok

that is the former Stourminster Special School, which was a brown field site identified in the previous local plan in 1996 and that is nothing

Audience: and is that Taylor Wimpey as well?

No

No Audience: I actually know somebody who has brought one of those houses Fran, and they are actually very pleased and another load of houses possibly.

They will have a brook or a field between them. That site, I mean, I have to tell you that if you really want to know how absolutely expletive deleted how stupid Worcestershire District Council actually is it sold the Stourminster Special School site, a purpose built special school to build houses and it is now going to build another special school on the former Sladen Site.

Audience: talking....

Now I am incredibly sorry but for heaven sake, why do you demolish a perfectly good special school, build houses on it and then on a site where you have cleared a school that you didn't need, which you could use for houses quite easily on Hurcott Road, you are going to build another special school and a few houses, I mean

Audience: I think you will find that there is a covenant on that land saying that it has got to be used for education.

No no no, the covenant was from the Church of England and it has been discharged by giving them Wolverley High School.

Audience: We moved from Sandwell Council, in the West Midlands two and a half years ago and we thought they were stupid.

I have to tell you that Worcestershire is capable of reaching whole new realms of stupidity, plus having a Highways staff that don't live on the same planet as the rest of us. I actually before I lost the County Council seat, I took the local Highways engineer over that Husum Way Junction, I brought him over the Birmingham Road end and I said look out of the window Paul, what can you see. He said there is about a 8ft dip Fran, and I said yes that some idiot thinks we can put a road junction there, and he said, no not me, not my section. Well tough.

Audience: I know it is part of the bigger picture, but hospital.

Yes.

Audience: waiting times at Worcester Hospital were 8 hours the other day, where are all we oldies going to go.

Right, there is a bill going through the House of Commons at the moment, which is another restructuring of the health service and basically yep non-medicine and an awful lot of things that traditionally needed to be done in hospitals, doesn't need to be done in hospitals it can be done at day clinics and people can be treated at home, provided they have the staff to go and do it.

Audience: you can have a ZOOM meeting for it.

You can have a ZOOM meeting with a doctor recently, it was really good. The hospital issue is a very live one, and actually if you were starting from scratch looking at hospital provision in Worcestershire, you would have one Hospital. You would have it in Droitwich next to the M5 so that everybody could get to it easily, but you don't do that you work on bits and bobs that you have got, which is absolutely stupid. I mean, what you really need to think about is how many, you know the golden arrow with things like heart attacks and everything and strokes. The number of people locally with a serious stroke who have had to be taken to the Walsgrove at Coventry anyway, as you can't be treated in Worcestershire. There is a lass on Comberton, whose partner died a fortnight ago, I think it was. Basically, he had massive fits, he was taken to the Worcestershire, but MRI scanned and was taken to Coventry and he died there. You know, we haven't actually got that level of medical provision easily accessible to Worcestershire anyway. You either get taken...

Audience: and you build more houses.

I don't

Audience: And Pershore and all the new houses there.

I totally agree with you, but actually that people that do that joined up thinking are in government. Um it is crazy, because we are building without infrastructure. Ok they will eventually finish the work they are doing at the Hoobrook Island eventually, and they are putting traffic lights on three of the lanes into the island, but not the fourth, where is the worst traffic, Wilden Lane, where aren't they putting traffic lights, Wilden Lane. I mean you know, crazy. It is, it really is absolutely daft. We told them all

along when they built Silverwoods, that they did not need to put traffic lights on Worcester Road at the Silverwoods junction they needed a roundabout. Oh no no, traffic lights will be fine, our computer modelling says traffic lights will not cause a delay. Well I got stuck halfway across the darn road the other day and it is like you are sitting there with everything coming at you, you know we do have a problem with County Highways.

So, I mean we do have a problem with county highways

Audience: you don't need a political rant!

No, I am sorry, but I mean we have a major problem, we think that we have not got enough hospital. We certainly haven't got enough other infrastructures. I was really pleased when the Taylor Wimpey people said to us that they were talking to a GP practice in Kidderminster. I have got no idea which one they think will run a satellite surgery because a massive number of GP's are retiring, we seem to have a national shortage, but I mean what we can guarantee that if it goes as far as getting a planning application being considered then residents against Woven Oaks will be employing an independent planning advisor. It will be somebody who has senior planning experience, probably somebody who has either been a planning inspector or who has been a very senior local authority planning officer and they will also be employing a specialist traffic consultant, and if you can give them details of that guy on Shakespeare Drive, that would help as well.

Audience: most certainly.

Because if we can get somebody to actually say that the safety margins effectively on the Husum Way bridge are only just right for the traffic that is going over it now, that would absolutely nail it that you would have to have an additional railway bridge

Audience: how much would you need to raise. It is in the thousands. Initial indication is that it would be nice to have five thousand. Yeah it said £5 thousand. We are nowhere near that at the moment. But people need to wake up to the idea of it, give them time.

Yeah, we can contribute to it as long as we do it anonymously.

Audience: can I just ask who exactly is, I know Olly lives up the road from us is part of it and you, yeah, I am yeah. Three independent families.

It is three families on Prior Close, isn't it basically. Are you

Audience: no, I am the other side, I am on there.

You are the gentleman there. Shout if anyone wants one of their leaflets. Shazu: what I will do is just hand some out.

Audience: speaking over each other.

There are 1500 houses on Offmore, there are 2100 houses on Offmore and Comberton. A £1 off of every household would go a long way, wouldn't it?

Audience: all talking over each other.

We said to them when they said 400 houses, that is a 1,000 cars, they said some houses don't have 2 cars and I said some have 4 actually don't they. That is actually terrifying

Audience: talking over each other.

So, everybody will you please put your emails in, please put your complaints in and if we are closing, please close those windows and those blinds.

Audience: can you confirm which email address to send to?

Right the guy's name is Richard Pia and his email address: Pier is PIA his email address is rpia@camargue.uk Camargue are doing the consultation for Taylor Wimpey.

Everyone talking over each other.

ORDER PLEASE

QUIET PLEASE

If anybody wants to send an email and wants an address to send it to the company organising the consultation are Camargue and the email address is rpia@camargue.uk that is his email address, rpia@camargue.uk and Shazu and I have now decided that the leaflet that we were going to send at the weekend is going to the local printer we are going to make sure that the contact details to send to are on that. I will see if I can find the snail mail address for Taylor Wimpey, if anybody who has signed in can give us their email address, ok do you want to write it on this.