



The Planning Inspectorate

4D Hawk Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Direct Line: 0303 444 5469
Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: Bob.palmer@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Mrs A McLaven
Parish Clerk
Isham Parish Council

Your Ref:

Our Ref: APP/H2835/W/16/3146992

Sent by e-mail

Date: 7 February 2017

Dear Mrs McLaven

LAND OFF THE SORRELS, ISHAM, NORTHANTS

Thank you for your letter dated 28 September 2016 in relation to the decision to grant planning permission, on appeal, for residential development at the above site. Let me start by offering my sincerest apologies for the time it has taken to reply.

I am sorry to hear of the Parish Council's disappointment at the outcome of the appeal. I must start, however, by explaining that there is no remit under the complaints procedure to reconsider the arguments and evidence for and against the appeal. This could only have happened if the appeal decision had been successfully challenged in the High Court on a point of law.

I appreciate that you strongly disagree with the Inspector's conclusions and feel that he should have accorded more weight to the objections from local residents. Please be assured that the views of the local community are an important part of the appeal process; it is clear in this case that the Inspector took the representations before him into account (paragraph 21 of the decision). However, planning proposals must be decided on their merits, in the light of the relevant local and national planning policies. In other words, decisions should not be made simply on the relative strengths of support or opposition. It would be inappropriate to dismiss an appeal solely because of community opposition where the Inspector concludes there is national or local policy support for the proposal.

You clearly feel that the Inspector's reasoning runs contrary to the policies in the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the Government's National Planning Policy Framework. From my reading of the decision, however, I am satisfied that he has not misinterpreted the policies that are relevant to the proposal. He identified no conflict with those policies, or any other concern that would justify a refusal of planning permission. In those circumstances, it was reasonable for him to allow the appeal.

I realise this reply is unlikely to reconcile you to the appeal outcome. I hope it is helpful nonetheless.

Yours sincerely

Bob Palmer

Customer Quality Team