

Dear Ursula

Please find attached Backwell Parish Council's recommendation on the Farleigh Fields application (21/P/1766/OUT), which will also be posted on the NSC website.

Resolved: Unanimously 'Backwell Parish Council strongly objects to this planning application.

We have secured this site as a Green Space for our residents, and consequently as a Parish and as a community we fought the last application in 2018 which ended up going to a public enquiry with the Secretary of State, and thankfully these plans were turned down again.

The proposed development would significantly affect the setting and character of Backwell and so conflicts with the Backwell Neighbourhood Plan which we value.

The Backwell Neighbourhood Plan 2014-26 (Backwell Future) supported development 'which is at a level appropriate to the size and character of the settlement'. It identified sites for around 100 new houses, which included the recent developments on Moor Lane and the sites at the New Inn and the Red Cross Hall. That 100 total has been reached. The Neighbourhood plan was a product of extensive research and consultation across our community and formed an agreed plan for development.

On that basis, Backwell Parish Council strongly objects to any further development, including plans to build a further (circa) 125 homes on Farleigh Fields, which we believe would have an adverse effect on the size and character of our village. We note that the North Somerset Local Plan to be adopted in 2023 may call for a revision of our current Neighbourhood Plan.

Backwell PC is not against gradual sustainable growth, and we are keen to be part of the consultation process with NSC on the new Local Plan but think that any applications like this from developers should be put on hold until that document emerges later this year for approval in 2022.

Regards.

Jane Stone
Clerk to Backwell Parish Council