

**Old Ditch Farm
Lynch lane
Westbury sub Mendip
Wells Somerset
BA5 1HW**

19 January 2022

Mr John Weir, Head Of Real Estate,
Church Commissioners
Church House,
31 Great Smith Street,
London SW1P3EZ
John.weir@churchofengland.org

Mr Tom Joy, Chief Investment officer
Church Commissioners
Church House
31 Great Smith Street
London SW1P3EZ
tom.joy@churchofengland.org

Dear Mr Weir and Mr Joy

New housing development Westbury sub Mendip

The Mendip Local Plan Part 11 was adopted on 20th December 2021.

In early January 2022 the village was advised by your agents, Lichfields, of your proposal for new housing in a field south of Roughmoor Lane, with village consultation from 12th to 26th January.

The proposal is initially for an estate of up to 60 houses, although this would appear to be the first phase with the remaining 2/3 of this field to be developed later. (Our village currently has 329 houses). The initial phase of 60 houses would have a very significant impact on the village and surrounding area.

Lichfields have set up a Zoom meeting to go through the proposal to be held tomorrow, 20th January at 5.00pm. Requests for a "face to face" meeting with our community have been refused as has an extension of time of the consultation period.

The Zoom meeting is not accessible to many: either they do not have access to the internet, or they are at work at the time of the Zoom. With covid restrictions to be lifted at the end of next week, it would be fair to the village to arrange a face-to-face meeting one evening in a couple of weeks' time.

There would appear to be an "unholy" rush to press on with submitting an outline planning application, with Lichfields "going through the motions" of consultation, but in practical terms giving little opportunity for the village to reflect, have a proper forum to air their views and for Lichfields to try and allay concerns.

The 2020 Church of England Stewardship Report states that: "Engaging with key stakeholders, including local authorities, existing communities and local parishes and dioceses, is at the heart of what we do"

We are fortunate to live in a democratic society and everyone has a right to express their views and opinions. This right has effectively been refused by the Church Commissioners' agent and is clearly not in accordance with the Christian values which the Commissioners purport to uphold.

We request your urgent personal intervention to insist that your agents arrange a further public meeting following the lifting of Covid restrictions to allow the matter to be properly considered.

Yours sincerely



Peter Laws



Jackie Laws