

Matter 3C Written Statement – SHU1 – Steve Ryles

I am contacting you in order to raise my objections in respect of housing plans around the area to the south of Badgeworth Lane, that I believe are known to you by the code 'SHU1'. Having reviewed the plans in your recent communication, there are a number of concerns that I wish to communicate to you. These are as follows:-

1: Having looked at the plans online, I note that the number of houses planned on SHU1 is 50 houses in total.

This is a ridiculous number of properties to build in this location. Where are the additional amenities for all of these extra people going to come from? To start with, there is the Shurdington Road (A46) – this is very obviously already overpopulated. It was designed to be a road connecting Brockworth and Stroud with Cheltenham; however, changes over the last decade have flooded it with vehicles. To begin with, you have the relatively new Junction 11a from the M5, bringing traffic from the South West of the UK – much of this traffic now enters Cheltenham via the Shurdington Road. Additionally, you have traffic from Swindon and the South East coming from the dual carriageway also onto Shurdington Road. Anyone trying to use this road during peak times (0700 – 1000 in the morning or 1500 – 1900 in the afternoon/evening) knows that the traffic is already frequently gridlocked. The aforementioned development, plus the one planned at Leckhampton Gate (another 100+ houses) will cause utter chaos.

If you are travelling along the Shurdington Road from the South at the moment, within 150 yards of one another, you have Endsleigh Insurance, The Greenway Hotel, Green Lane on the right, plus the entrance to Elliots Recycling, The Archery Club, Badgeworth Lane and then Lambert Avenue on the left. What you seem to be proposing is either yet another access road to the left on the A46 or, even worse, an access road somewhere down Badgeworth Lane, taking a massive amount of traffic down there when the children are going to, or coming out of Shurdington School.

Furthermore, at least half of this traffic will be trying to access Badgeworth Lane from the north – meaning they will be turning right into the gridlocked traffic coming in the opposite direction.

How can you possibly have factored all of this in and still considered it a viable proposition? At the end of the school day, Badgeworth Lane is already gridlocked, because of cars belonging to parents of the school children parked both in Badgeworth Lane and Lambert Avenue – this effectively renders Badgeworth Lane as a one-lane road at the Shurdington Road end. Very recently, this caused an accident resulting in a car being overturned with a child and parent trapped inside it (I believe the Fire Brigade had to cut them out of the car). With the additional houses, this situation is going to get considerably worse.

Soon, motorists are going to start using Lambert Avenue as a 'rat-run' to try to circumnavigate the daily traffic jam - at the moment, the children from that area all the way down to Church Lane are able to play outside their houses and/or flats, often on their bikes in the road. They are able to do this as Lambert Avenue has very little traffic going up and down it. Once it becomes known as some kind of short-cut, this is going to change for the worse. Not only that, but all of this 'rat-run' traffic is going to converge around the area of Shurdington Stores (just south of Church Lane) and more gridlocks will occur there, as local traffic obviously parks there to use the shops in the locale.

2: 50 additional houses will mean – in the near future if not already – around 100 additional children who presumably will want to attend the Shurdington School. According to the website, there are currently 146 pupils at the school, the vast majority of whom come from Shurdington

village. Are you planning for the 100 additional pupils to also go there? How on earth is the school going to expand to accommodate them? If the school doesn't effectively double in size, it is going to mean that children whose families have lived in the village of Shurdington, often for generations, are going to be excluded from their own school as the 'newcomers' will live geographically nearer to the school and will therefore have more right to attend over the very people the school was originally designed to cater for.

- 3: Please can you advise an extensive, detailed list of all of the additional amenities that you are planning to introduce to the immediate area so that this huge influx of additional people can be catered for?
- 4: Surely the area of land that we are talking about here is currently considered to be (A) part of the green belt and (B) part of the land which has been designated as an area of natural beauty, currently populated by a plethora of species of wildlife? How is this going to be enhanced by the addition of 50 modern houses and extensive street lighting?

I would confirm that Badgeworth Lane residents are planning to seek legal advice in respect of all of the above points and probably additional ones too.

In the meantime, I would be grateful if you could review my points carefully and reply promptly in respect of all of the points that I have raised.

Regards,

Steve Ryles