



Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

Mr S W Hannath – Clerk

**Chaldon House, 83 Church Rd, Laverstock,
Salisbury, SP1 1QZ**

Phone / Fax 01722 326714 E-mail stevehannath@talktalk.net

18th July 2011

Dear Sir

This parish stands by the comments made to you in previous correspondence. Regarding the inspection of the draft Core Strategy we would wish to add the following comments on specific issues.

Issue 5: Implications for strategic Allocations and Infrastructure

The draft Core Strategy fails to address the traffic impact arising from development at the identified sites. The road infrastructure in this area is not fit for purpose. No effects have been anticipated of the increased traffic passing through Laverstock Village from the large developments planned in this Parish; 500 at Hampton Park , 450 at Longhedge and the ongoing site at Old Sarum of 675. With relatively little employment in Salisbury, car journeys would dramatically increase, as drivers seek alternative routes to shopping on the A36 and journeys east to Southampton. This would effectively make Laverstock the eastern bypass for Salisbury. With inadequate provision of suitable roads the planned expansion is not sustainable and therefore makes the Core Strategy unsound.

No provision had been made in the Core Strategy plan for increased secondary education provision. There are three secondary schools sharing one campus in the middle of the village of Laverstock. Currently, there is no spare accommodation and many of the c2000 pupils are accommodated in temporary mobile classrooms. The daily coming and going of this huge number of pupils gives rise to gridlock and chaos at the start and end of the school day. The increase in the number of homes in this area requires a positive identification of a new site for secondary education. To state this as an aspiration is simply not good enough and would result in unacceptable number of pupils attending schools in Laverstock and its accompanying traffic problems and distress for local residents.

Ron Champion

Chairman
Laverstock and Ford Parish Council

The Parish of Laverstock & Ford comprises four communities, an element of a fifth and a proposal for a 6th. Laverstock, Ford, Old Sarum & Hampton Park are the communities, with an element of Milford making the 5th, although Laverstock usually includes this element within Laverstock. Longhedge is open farm land over the field from Old Sarum development and extending to the furthest northern extent of the L&F parish boundary.

It is clear from the Laverstock & Ford parish Plan, which has been in existence for a couple of years at least, that the overwhelming view of every one of these communities is that they are content to be near Salisbury but not be in or swamped by Salisbury. Equally, a major factor was the demand for the local representatives to preserve the green space, wherever possible, as the preservation of a farming outlook at the root of the community, was seen as the reason for being in the parish in the first place. Our green space also offers Salisbury a real alternative to City life and easily accessible.

To achieve these ends, we have all worked to improve links for cycling, walking and horse riding throughout the parish. It is possible to do all these things from the top to the bottom of the parish.

The acquisition of land in Laverstock has encouraged the formation of a Community farm, which has literally hundred's of volunteers and thousands of visitors, mostly on foot. I use these as illustrations of the elected representatives all working to achieve the aims of the Parish Plan.

Now the past and present development detail, starting with Longhedge. Longhedge has an allocation of 450 dwellings with another '350 in reserve'. This will be a 'slither' apart from Old Sarum, whose community will effectively increase from circa 160 dwellings, prior to the last Local Plan, to over 850 once the 674 Persimmon dwellings are built. This would approach Laverstock's (the principal community of the parish) 1150 dwellings, which was 1000 before the last Local Plan.

The Longhedge allocation would bring a total of 1300 dwellings in the north of the parish, where only 5 years ago, 160 stood.

The 'reserve 350', if called upon, as inevitably one day it would, if the first allocation is made, increases the grand total to 1650 dwellings in the north of the parish.

The question then becomes one of need and infrastructure. There is no doubt that L&F Parish has no need for these dwellings, as it prefers the farm land, has no need for infrastructure and our local residents would have no claim to live in the properties, unlike other parishes, who are encouraged to offer up land in return for 'local people's housing'.

The 'one party vote' at Wiltshire Council has got us to this point. (I am not of that party, so have no inside links, unlike Netherhampton Road, perhaps).

This vote has led to the removal of Netherhampton Road site – ideal for a migration of Salisbury businesses from Churchfields to the next closest site. This site was removed because Harnham residents (not locals) were whipped up to write a letter. Lo and behold this site suddenly gets removed.

Result? A huge allocation of Employment land at Longhedge – 8-10 hectares in addition to the existing employment allocation at Old Sarum (not one brick laid) and the existing Industrial estate at Old Sarum Airfield, where units lay empty and the one heavy industry is now being taken to court owing to a new local resident complaining of noise from the industrial site. The noise was there long before the residents, so how can that be omitted from any housing planning requirement in the first instance?

All these employment allocations, in a place not best liked by many businesses, will serve to create a new eyesore and Churchfields look-alike, simply because Planners dump all their eggs in one parish, for expedience.

Back to the houses at Longhedge and you now have another reason to doubt the wisdom of all that employment alongside and surrounding all those houses. Residents complain and business suffers. Lorries and homes do not mix and this is proven not to be the most sought after site for businesses and housing.

Back to the Housing allocation and the fact that no new houses are required here, as of the 674 in the Local Plan, approximately only 250 are occupied six years later and over 400 yet to be built. Those that are being built are being rented by the MOD for TEMPORARY Army accommodation or are being 'given away' before the other sites in Salisbury commence building, as the developer knows that this is the least favoured site of all.

Should this barmy, easy to make, decision of the Core Strategy be upheld, then 450 dwellings would not be enough to provide a proper school and create a new village. 800 would be too many. 600 probably about right. A new village with all infrastructure must then be the outcome. The development at Old Sarum already has exhausted the local facilities. e.g. the school is too small to accommodate the community once totally occupied.

Longhedge versus Hampton Park Extension

I represent Ford, which is the opposite side of the airfield and visible from Old Sarum/Longhedge. Adjacent to Ford is Bishopdown Farm land which currently separates Ford from Hampton Park (Still in the L&F parish). This strategic gap separating the two communities also has a callous allocation of 500 dwellings and an existing allocation of a new retail park, which falls partly in the parish. If the allocation of business and housing at Longhedge is permitted, alongside the existing allocation of Old Sarum and in addition the proposed allocation in the Strategic Gap, then this would create a virtually continuous concreting over of the L&F Parish from The fields of Longhedge through to the city – Bishopdown farm. Bishopdown farm (300 dwellings) was also in the parish of L&F until built, then the parish was told that the housing meant their councillors could not cope with the load, so best to move the parish boundary.

I request that the Inspector looks at what is being done by the planners, to one parish (which is in Southern Community Area, not Salisbury) and request that all allocations be viewed holistically and the detriment to the wishes of the residents taken fully into account.

At best, all allocations should be removed and let developers come and stake their claim. Any offer would be viewed properly, with the effect on the communities, an integral measurement, unlike the current Core Strategy offering, which shows no consideration for us at all.

L&F parish has always recognised the proximity to Salisbury and the need to play a part. Last Local Plan – 800 dwellings and employment.

Enough is enough. L&F parish does not need or desire 450 or 850 at Longhedge, 8 or 10 hectares of employment at Longhedge and a further 500 dwellings at Hampton park 'extension' into the strategic Gap.

These allocations, coupled with the Local Plan allocations, yet to be built, would literally double the dwellings in the Parish and provide no rights for our own residents at all. It would also make our Parish Plan worthless in the face of hungry planners, who care not.

I was asked why I opposed the Core strategy when we needed a strategy to ensure we had a proper say in where housing and employment is allocated. Having read the above, I expect you know the answer! We could not be any worse off, if the planners actually tried to do damage to our lives and aspirations for our communities.

Stuff the Core Strategy and its vindictive allocations in the Parish of Laverstock & Ford.

Thank you.

I will not attend the hearing, as I have had enough of Core Strategies and Local Plans!

Ian

Cllr Ian M^cLennan