



JO CHURCHILL MP
Member of Parliament for Bury St Edmunds



Arthur Charvonia and Cllr Suzie Moreley
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
Ipswich IP1 2BX

16th March 2023

Dear Arthur and Suzie,

I was very pleased to see the Gladman development application for 210 houses in Thurston turned down by the Planning Committee and from the Chair Cllr Muller I understand it was a unanimous decision. I support fully Cllr Richardson's assertion that the significant amount of development in Thurston over the past few years has led to a negative cumulative impact on building in the village.

Having spoken to villagers on numerous occasions over the years they rightly feel they want a say in how their village develops and not to have their views ignored. It is quite right that the committee adhere to the local plan which allocates the site as countryside. Development targets are no longer relevant and any Appeal should certainly continue to observe the same criteria. The buildout rate needs to be progressed substantially before any further development is considered in this village.

I note that disappointingly but not surprisingly, Gladman Developments have been reluctant to engage with Councillors and residents on the issue and I trust any appeal will be robustly defended.

My thanks go to the officers for their hard work in reviewing this application, advising refusal and I support them wholeheartedly in this recommendation.

Since 2015, when I was elected as Member of Parliament for the Bury St Edmunds area, I have been suggesting that a new village, designed to complement our existing conurbations, could be a smarter, future-proofed solution to housing needs. Allowing for full infrastructure support and a new community to be developed to enhance our existing housing stock.

Yours sincerely

Jo Churchill MP