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Gordon & Irene Bent

25th January 2024

Re: Flooding concerns in Westwood & Jacksdale regarding future housing developments

I would like to strongly object to the proposed plan for 81 houses to be built at Main Road, Westwood/Jacksdale.

My wife and myself have lived [REDACTED] Westwood for 38 years. We have Bagthorpe Brook running through our garden, as does a number of our neighbours. The amount of water coming down this tiny, poorly maintained brook is definitely getting worse. Whilst the brook is maintained where it goes through privately owned gardens, it is a different matter where the brook goes through fields, under bridges and at the side of pavements and roads. You only have to walk at the side of it to see that it is poorly maintained with fallen trees, tree roots/vegetation and all manner of rubbish that enters the watercourse. In the event of heavy rainfall, if there is a blockage, then we are in trouble. We are very sad and worried that there seems to be no conscience with planners and decision makers when approving more building on inappropriate land which will undoubtedly make the flooding much worse causing a devastating effect on our lives.

The site of these houses suggest that any drainage would hit Bagthorpe Brook like a 'T' junction. I dare say that the developers or the council won't be widening the bridge at the bottom of Brinsley Hill or cleaning out/widening the brook to accommodate extra water. Please don't insult people's intelligence by saying that the developers will put in holding tanks and a pond, as that is laughable and would not be a solution.

Why should anyone have the right to jeopardise peoples properties and lives and yet, this is what planning committees are doing up and down the country in their hunger for more revenue to keep them in their ivory towers.

Rivers and streams are so silted up and receive no maintenance. This, like the current situation with roads, is quite honestly a national disgrace.

How are the tiny village roads, schools, doctors, dentists around Westwood & Jacksdale going to accommodate all these extra people and cars? Does the council even bother about this!

I hope officials have seen recent photographs of all the flood water on Main Road. Hopefully, that would be enough to deter any development but I understand that it was said that flooding should be considered 'irrelevant'. How can this be so when it clearly is a real problem, especially to the residents [REDACTED] Westwood and Brinsley Hill. Would this person say that if it affected their property or, heaven forbid, if anyone got killed by floodwater.

We sincerely hope that you will take notice of our comments which come to you as a genuine fear of future flooding which is devastating to live through.

Gordon & Irene Bent