

“Good morning Chairman and thank you for allowing me to address the Planning Committee this afternoon.

Good afternoon Committee, you have all heard me speaking about the Gillingham Southern Extension many times before, undoubtedly because the people of Gillingham master planned every detail of this development over many years. That I can say because I have lead on this for the last 9 years.

As you will have read in the report and they are facts that you already know, that Gillingham Town Council, the adopted Gillingham Neighbourhood plan and the adopted North Dorset Local Plan support this development.

It has long been the backbone of development for North Dorset and it is imperative that we get on with it as soon as possible.

There is a real danger in not getting on with it as soon as possible and you have heard already today: “Why do we need more housing development when we thought, it was planned that all housing need would be delivered through the Gillingham Southern Extension?”, well it never was that simple. There would also be infilling.

A problem that has developed whilst we were waiting for the Southern Extension to get under way, is that speculative development is coming through the back door: perhaps too much reliance was put on the early delivery of the extension, in the North Dorset Local Plan, all those years ago.

The outline application before you today, is the final part of the jigsaw for the Gillingham Southern Extension and the second half of the Lodden Lakes development, the principle of which was agreed through the strategic Local plan allocation and supported by the adopted Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan.

There are no objections by statutory bodies and as you have read: 3 letters of representations were received, 1 letter of support from a local resident stated the following: “Cannot wait for more details of these houses. As a family with 2 children at the High School in town, the location is perfect and hopefully some of the houses will be affordable for my husband and I (both teachers) to be able to get on the housing ladder. The remaining two letters were from the adjacent Gillingham and District Anglers association, where several objections were raised but I am pleased to say, that following discussions with Taylor Wimpey, the Anglers Association wrote to the Council confirming the withdrawal of their earlier objections.

Well committee, we have heard from the public when they don't want development and here is an application supported by everyone, so let us show the public that we do listen and as there are no material considerations which would warrant refusal of this application, I urge you to support the officer's recommendation and approve this application.
Please”

Best wishes

David

Cllr David Walsh
Portfolio Holder for Planning