

My name is David Willetts. I live at the eastern end of Love Lane in Shaw. We moved here not knowing a soul some twelve years ago when our daughter Sara was diagnosed with breast cancer. Sara died two years later. I wish to pay tribute to the kindness of strangers in our Community, strangers who have now become our friends and neighbours. Today I am the Community Coordinator at our parish church, St Mary’s and I am actively involved in our community affairs

Our wish as a Community is to extend the same kindness to new parishioners. The size of our Community will increase by some 25%, with many more to follow if the current HELAA proposals are agreed. The objections to these applications set out the lack of meaningful consultation.

*Is our “One Community” ambition so unworthy that neither officers nor house builders have ears to hear or eyes to see the importance of preserving and enhancing our existing social infrastructure on the Love Lane site during their one way “consultations” ?*

In March St Mary’s established the joint initiative with the Parish Council, SAFE in support the West Berkshire Hub to make sure that no one was uncared for during Lockdown and much more beside.

*Why do these applications fail to address Coronavirus and the need to future proof our communities?*

The evidence from our Parish Community Plan Consultation is that the loneliness with all its attendant threats to mental health and well-being is today’s No 1 concern in our Community. We anticipate a significant number of lonely people arriving in our Community over the next few years.

*Why have we not learned the lessons from the mistakes of the past such as the Turnpike estate. Can we afford to go on kicking the can further down the road? We need adequate provision for social infrastructure please.*

The County Lines drug paraphernalia may have disappeared from the Trinity Academy car park and the Lych Gate at St Mary’s for the time being BUT

*Is there anyone here bold enough to assert that the drug peddlers will not return if we fail to ensure that we have social infrastructure fit for purpose to protect our children and young people?*

The Parish Planning Group is developing costed options for future economic community use of the present listed School Building and the Village Hall on Love Lane. The Love Lane location connects the existing and new homes to help build one community and it needs to be properly funded.

*Why have Consultations with the Community neglected to enquire and discuss how best to collaborate and support this initiative??*

Here is a proposition:

*As a condition of approving these applications, resolve to depute a planning officer to join the SCD Community Planning Group, allocate CIL monies from these two developments to help fund to the future of the Love Lane site and invite the housebuilders to contribute cash and in kind support.*

In expectation of your reasoned response, thank you.

David Willetts