

Councillor Evemy,

We are writing to you as leader of CDC to express our shock and outrage at the treatment of Mickleton in the recently announced Local Plan Regulation 19. Village residents and the Parish Council submitted significant input to the Regulation 18 consultation in response to the proposed massive expansion of the village by 590 houses. The key points covered can be summarised by the following.

- Factual errors in the determination of Mickleton as a Principal Settlement.
- An increase in village scale that would totally change the setting and character of the village.
- Significant shortfalls in all aspects of sustainable infrastructure; local employment, education provision, access to healthcare, concerns over water provision and waste removal, access to leisure and retail services.
- Concerns at the impact such expansion would have on already dangerously overcrowded local roads, underpinned by an ineffective public transport system.
- Failure to show cross-border engagement with a neighbouring District Council for the huge housing expansion being planned at Long Marston Airfield in the South Warwickshire Local Plan.
- A complete mismatch between housing volumes being proposed versus the actual number of houses needed locally.

All the above were encapsulated within the previous Local Plan where Mickleton was recommended for no further development due to it being unsustainable. So what has changed?

Clearly there has been a dramatic increase in housing numbers coming from Government. Another change is that more land has become available. Neither of these things have any bearing on the question of sustainability.

With visibility of the proposed Regulation 19 documentation we feel as if we have been ambushed. Not only has the well-crafted feedback from the village been ignored, it has been rewarded with an unbelievable increase in housing numbers to over 1,400. The only benefits are reference to a new primary school (ironically one of the few facilities the village already has), footpaths, cycle ways, sports fields, and a new village centre. Why should the people of Mickleton have any confidence that these future benefits will ever be delivered?

Using this currently non-existent infrastructure to justify the expansion of Mickleton to a scale more than twice the size of Chipping Campden defies logic. This is a complete betrayal of the people of Mickleton and the significant efforts they went to in providing consistent and reasonable feedback to Regulation 18. What was the point?

To add insult to injury, Regulation 18 public sessions were held in Mickleton, Moreton, Fairford, and Cirencester. The Regulation 19 sessions are in the same places, with the exception of Mickleton which has been replaced by Chipping Campden, a location which is relatively untouched by the revised Local Plan. You have made Mickleton and a few other places sacrificial lambs on the altar of protecting the National Landscape. At the very least you should have the courage to defend this plan directly to the people of Mickleton.

Chris Cottam
Chair of Mickleton Parish Council