

PLANNING COMMENT FOR APPLICATION REF: 5/2020/3022

Linda Crocker

91 Mount Pleasant Lane
Bricket Wood
St Albans
AL2 3XF

Bricket Wood Residents Association

Support the Proposal

As Chair of Bricket Wood Residents Association I would like to fully support this proposal.

We are an aging population and Bricket Wood certainly has a large number of elderly residents, which the Neighbourhood plan survey showed to be common across the Parish.

Getting older is a real fear for many people causing much anxiety on what the future holds and how they will cope, particularly without being a burden on their families. The Burston retirement Village offers a comfortable safe place to live with a package of progressive wrap around care meeting both the medical and social needs of the elderly population.

A significant number of our elderly residents live in large 3, 4 or even 5 bedroom properties and would like to downsize to suitable accommodation. Unfortunately, we do not currently have any retirement flats in Bricket Wood, our nearest are in St Albans and in very high demand. By having the Burston Retirement Village our residents could move to more suitable accommodation allowing families to move into the larger properties.

Bricket Wood residents are passionate about preserving Green Belt, however, the proposed land at Burston Garden Centre is unused, derelict and unattractive so does not meet the criteria in the National Planning Policy Framework for Green Belt. The proposed development will provide a carefully landscaped community with a range of planting promoting wildlife and biodiversity. In addition, the planting will offer dense and attractive screening from Burston Manor. Our residents believe this is a good use of this piece of derelict Green Belt Land at the same time providing social and medical care for our aging community.

In summary, the Bricket Wood Residents Association support this development on behalf of the members of our community as it provides a much-needed residential solution for the ever increasing elderly population.