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Sent: 03 June 2023 22:36
To: Smart, Chloe <Chloe.Smart@herefordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Fwd: 230457 - Checking representations

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Hi Chloe

Apologies for asking again on this, I appreciate you are very busy.

As in my e-mail below, I think the additional representation I submitted on the 17th May didn't work (likely my fault) hence sending to you directly to try to get it uploaded.

I hope that is possible.

Many thanks

Regarding the recent submission from the Highways Authority (Area Engineer (Highways) - Further Info Needed):

"The LHA is accepting of the proposed footway plans along Old Church Road between the site and Stone Drive as it would enable more vulnerable residents who may not be confident to walk in the carriageway to access the rest of the village on foot."

I agree that there needs to be good access to the amenities of the village, especially for vulnerable residents.

However, I am concerned about the increasing harm to the Conversation Area being caused by this development. To achieve a footpath there will need to be the removal of mature hedgerows and creation of a far more urban appearance. And in doing so, it is not clear at adequate road width will be achieved, e.g. this road and footpath will still be narrower than recommended, which is in-line with previous statements from Herefordshire about the local road network not supporting intensification of use (e.g. SHLAA).

The Conservation Area Designation statement of 2001 notes, for this area:

"Hedges running parallel and close to the road replace the low walls and less defined boundaries which are more characteristic of Walwyn Road, reinforcing the rural, intimate nature of this area. The rural character is further enhanced travelling westwards along Old Church Road with buildings becoming more sporadic and an increase in open spaces and fields towards the edge of the settlement."

also, under 'Boundary Treatments', the Conservation Area designation states:

"Boundary treatments are characteristically soft which contributes to the relaxed rustic character of Old Church Road, and emphasis the spacious surrounding of Walwyn Road. Grass verges are found universally along the roads and are bordered by mature hedges or walls of local stone, or often a combination of the two.

There are a number of strong boundary treatments which have been identified within the proposed area. These are characteristically hedgerows along Old Church Road, and a mixture of hedges and low stone walls along Walwyn road. Collectively the roadside boundaries within the proposed conservation are all important in contributing to its character and appearance".

If you view the attached photograph of Old Church Road it is hard to see how the road can be made sufficiently wide for 2 vehicles to pass easily, and include a pavement sufficient for local residents who may be pushing buggies, in wheelchairs to also pass each other, without destroying the mature hedgerow, creating a more urban landscape, and significantly harming the Conservation Area where there is a statutory duty to preserve and enhance it.

Unless these concerns can be addressed, I do not believe this proposal should be approved.

