

Mar 28 2013

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Dear Sir,

I am one of the older residents of Colwall, aged 75, living in Acorn Close, close to the middle of the village, and having lived in various parts of the village since 1964, starting in the main road immediately opposite the clock, then out in Redland Drive, off Mathon Road, and now back in the middle.

I do not now represent any particular group of villagers or village society but during my years of occupation have had a lot to do with St James Church, Colwall Cricket Club and was a founder member of the Village Society and its involvement with the first Village Design Statement. Enough therefore of my background for making comments on yet another form of village plan.

I have to express considerable doubt and cynicism regarding any comments coming forth from the Hereford planners when they clearly took no notice of the villagers comments re the replacement railway bridge and frankly produced a monstrosity which as a one lane road went totally against the stated wishes of the villagers.

We love the village, regularly chat with passersby whether we know them or not, because there is and always has been an over-riding aura of friendliness here.

Because the village is not on a highway and is bypassed between the local towns it should retain its residential base and not be interfered with by any more industrialisation either small or medium sized. The road structure will not take it. The possible conversion of the Schweppes site into residences is a sensible move, but I have expressed some concerns to those to whom they should be addressed. There are still a few areas of infill which would sensibly absorb some of the numbers of new residences included in the county plans and earmarked for this area. However I believe we should be ever mindful of the AONB and ensure that we do not expand beyond the existing building boundaries and start encroaching on the green areas. We are lucky to have retained our village green areas and should keep them.

It is becoming a custom for outlying villages to towns to become annexed to those towns and thus lose their individual identity. This should be avoided at all costs so that this lovely village remains that. My personal experience of this is from the village of Duffield which was five miles outside Derby when I was born there in 1937 but which is now a dormitory of Derby City and is a very sad reflection of its original village environment. I am sorry that These are purely personal comments but hope that you will appreciate some such comments as well as those coming from a broader base.

Yours faithfully -