

My name is Charles Clark. I am the Chair of the Medstead Parish Council Planning Committee. I have been a resident of Medstead for nearly 30 years and as a Parish Councillor, represent fellow residents and help manage the development of our community. Unfortunately Four Marks Parish Council were not permitted to voice their own objections this evening, but I can assure you that I speak with their approval and on their behalf.

This applicants indecent haste with the "Departure Notice " has arisen after a long and tortuous determination period and is typical of the past behaviour of this applicant in multiple applications. We have sympathised with the Officer over the lengthy communications with the applicant, as evidenced in the long trail of online documents, for what should have been a relatively simple application to make for just 4 dwellings.

The Notice flies in the face of the extant Settlement Policy Boundary and the made Neighbourhood Plan that defines it in an adopted policy. This seriously undermines the democratic process of the consulted and adopted/made planning policies.

The Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan was made with the assistance and approval of the EHDC, over 3 years of resident's work and agreed by an overwhelming referendum by those residents of the two villages. What message does this sweeping aside of the adopted plan to protect the very nature of a rural village send to those who live and work there? This area of beautiful rural countryside seems to be under constant attack by developers and landowners. Our communities have had a decade of developers and others who have little consideration for the preservation of the village way of life, build poorly designed suburban style commuter estates and damage the heart and soul of our community with a 30% increase in dwellings in just 10 years.....and no new infrastructure. Speculative building of the worst kind.

Medstead Parish Council, together with Four Marks Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group respectfully ask you to refuse this application, against the Officer's recommendation, which mis interprets the status of the Settlement Policy Boundary and the nature of the site.