

Dear Sir

*We just thought we'd respond to the two letters in last week's HS welcoming the High Court's decision to accept the challenge of the applicant of Thames Farm against the Inspectorate. The plan is to build a housing estate in Harpsden Parish on a green-field site between Lower Shiplake and Henley.*

*The two letters in favour of development are very lone voices indeed!*

The Localism Act sets out a series of measures to achieve a substantial and lasting shift in power away from central government and towards local people.

Here we have a scheme rejected by both Harpsden and Shiplake parish councils, rejected by the local planning officers, unanimously rejected by the South Oxfordshire District Council planning committee, rejected as a suitable site for meeting future housing needs in the Joint Henley, Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan, rejected by the local OCC councillor and deemed unsustainable by a Planning Inspector.

We think this provides more than ample evidence to show that this is not a suitable site for development!

We hope that the intent in the Localism Act is followed through in practice and that the wishes of the local communities to have a proper say in where housing should be built are listened to. If they are, then there should be no residential development at this rural, green site.

Tudor Taylor (Chairman Shiplake Parish Council) & Kester George (Chairman of Harpsden Parish Council).