

STATEMENT B1 – Councillor Jo Sergeant

It can't be emphasised enough that this is an extremely important project, as it is led by community in which it is located. Local people desperately need more housing but they need to be the right homes and Astry Close is providing the right homes for local people.

The Planning Officer recommends rejection of application because of 'substantial development of open grass verges'. There are grass verges all over Lawrence Weston, that are poorly managed and have become mini-quagmires. These represent more of a 'harm to local appearance' than the proposed development at Astry Close. It should also be noted that Lawrence Weston has an abundance of green space and trees, which make this point of rejection much less valid than for such a development in other parts of the city.

'Inadequate standards of amenity for future occupiers' suggests that there are not large numbers of people in the local area housed in poor standard privately-rented accommodation or in cramped blocks of flats with little or no private outside space. The community stakeholder aspect of the project, with the site owned and managed by the local community development trust (Ambition Lawrence Weston), should ensure that the residents receive maximum benefit from both private and communal outside space.