

STATEMENT B9 – Cllr Don Alexander

This application has been developed by Ambition Lawrence Weston, the holders of the Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Development Plan, and has involved a considerable amount of community engagement. The site has long been a blot on the landscape and regularly attracts flytippers.

The benefits associated with this application are considerable, particularly the amount of social housing and the houses' sustainability, all of which is well described in the officers' report. Affordable housing is desperately needed in Lawrence Weston. The policy conflicts are largely to do with design, an area which local residents are well qualified to meaningfully assess. At the heart of these differences is the fact that the existing layout of the estate, whilst attractive in theory, in practice often does not work well, as the very verges which are highlighted as a feature are often used as car parks and informal workshops. This painful truth will be well known to all councillors who have estates of this age in their wards. I know that this tension with existing policy has been thoroughly considered by the applicant and I ask you to assess the application before you in this light, giving full weight to their ability to judge what makes for an attractive and liveable neighbourhood that they themselves would wish to live in.

Thank you.

Don Alexander, BCC councillor for Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston ward.