

**Councillor Nicolas Barlow**  
**Councillor Steve Clark**  
**Councillor Alan Hopwood**



**Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Ward**

12 January 2019

Dear Resident

**PLANNING APPLICATION ON THE FORMER LONGLANDS SCHOOL SITE**

You are no doubt aware that a planning application was submitted to Dudley Council by Persimmon Homes to build fifty-nine properties on the former Longlands School site.

Despite the very high level of objections submitted, Persimmon pursued with the application and it was brought in front of the Council's planning committee on Tuesday 8 January. Cllr. Nicolas Barlow spoke against the application to the committee.

We are extremely pleased to inform you that the committee members voted to refuse the application, which was against officer recommendation to approve.

Cllr. Barlow had been clear from the outset that he was against any major development on the site that would not be in keeping with the locality, a view equally shared by your other Ward Councillors. He expressed frustration that given the extremely contentious history and the current shameful state of the site, Persimmon had failed to engage with residents and it was only through a last-minute public meeting, arranged by Margot James's office, that they finally engaged with the public. We feel this was too little, too late and they did not listen to any views put before them.

Cllr. Barlow stated to the Committee that the site had to be developed but sympathetically and with a holistic approach. With this application there was no genuine offer of affordable or social housing that we're desperately in need of, nor was there anything to support the community. Concern was also raised about the lack of parking on site and the knock-on effect it would have in the already congested vicinity. No thought had been given for the surrounding environment. There was no green space around each dwelling, or public open space. They were proposing to move badgers to artificial setts on the disused playing field to the east of the site but we had concern about whether that could be used for future housing.

Persimmon has a right to appeal the refusal. We can only hope they do the right thing and call a full public meeting, listen to the residents and come up with an alternative proposal that would better suit the site and satisfies residents and the wider community; as well as serving our future generations.

We will keep you updated with any information as soon as we are made aware.

Yours faithfully

**Cllr. Nicolas Barlow**

**Cllr. Steve Clark**

**Cllr. Alan Hopwood**