

Stapeley & District Parish Council

Statement in response to the decision to allow Muller Homes to develop land off Peter de Stapleigh Way.

Residents of Stapeley and Nantwich slapped in the face by Johnson's "build build build"

Despite 8 years of intense campaigning by residents, local groups, businesses and Stapeley & District Parish Council, leading to two public inquiries, thousands of signatures on a petition, thousands of objections, and a robust Neighbourhood Plan being put in place; our community has been silenced by a Government Minister in far off Westminster.

Matthew Theobald, Chair of Stapeley & District Parish Council, and Liberal Democrat spokesperson, said;

"With the stroke of a pen, our community's voice has been silenced by a Secretary of State who is reported to be mired in planning controversy on the national stage. Sadly, we're now seeing the results of the government's flimsy and insubstantial "build build build" announcement. The evidence points to government riding roughshod over our communities, in favour of political dogma. So much for localism and community decision making."

"I am extremely saddened by this government's decision to drive a bulldozer through the concerns, desires and aspirations of everyone in our community, and for what end? This is not what our community said we wanted. This was not what our young people, families, and older people said they needed, to build a life in Nantwich."

"To those who speak of the plans for community facilities, a note of caution; experience tells us that promises like '*primary school site; public open space including new village green, children's play area and allotments, green infrastructure including ecological area*' often fail to be delivered once development starts. As this development trudges through the "reserved matters" stage of planning and eventually gets built, I and others will be doing everything we can, to keep this developer to their "promises".

Looking to the future, Mr Theobald added;

"Now that it is clear the development will go ahead, I call upon the MP for Crewe and Nantwich step across party lines and join us in pushing for sustainable infrastructure and services to support our community."

"I'd like to give my heartfelt thanks to everyone who was involved in the 8 year campaign to stop this unwarranted, unsustainable development. The coming together of our community over this issue is an example of the best of community spirit. We can hold our heads up high, proud in the knowledge that we did absolutely everything we could to prevent this situation."

Matthew Theobald
Chairman of Stapeley & District Parish Council