

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF

SOUTH CERNEY WITH CERNEY WICK PARISH COUNCIL

When the inevitable is about to happen there are few choices available. Most people stand back and await the outcome, some try vainly to stop it and there are those who look at the situation to see how they can make the best of it. South Cerney Parish Council has taken the third option in the application made by Harrow Estates to build 150 houses on the old CAMAS site in the centre of our village.

Members of Parish Council, probably being more experienced in planning matters than are most of the general public, appreciated that the land was certainly going to be developed sooner or later as it is a brown field site (redundant industrial) right in the centre of our village. We also were made aware by the Planning team at CDC that the new Local Development Framework was likely to include the site as being potential building land. In view of this we agreed to enter into three way discussions with the site owners, the CDC and ourselves to attempt to influence the final design and density of the development together with obtaining as much collateral benefits as possible for the village.

The alternative would have been to have objected to the scheme and awaited the outcome of the CDC Planning committee's deliberations on the first application. If that had been accepted then we would have seen 180 dwellings erected and no benefits for the village. As it turned out, we did influence the developers and in doing so persuaded them to reduce the number of houses to 150, including 30 much needed affordable dwellings, and the provision of a specially designed Youth and Sports community centre which will cost the developer more than £1 million.

We are fully aware that there are some people who are very upset that we supported the application by not objecting to the plans. Parish Councils are elected to represent the entire community and can never hope to please all of the people all of the time. We had to take a pragmatic view of the situation and took the course of action the majority of our members considered was best for the village as a whole.

The site will now be subject to detailed planning and this Parish Council will be vigilant in ensuring that the final development is as the original outline plans indicated. Be assured we do have the best interest of the community at the forefront of all our deliberations.

Sunday 12th June 2011.