

We wish to object most strongly to the inclusion of **SOM 2 MBC/023/16** (potential development of 42 houses to the South of Somerby) into the Melton Mowbray Draft Local Plan.

If the development was to proceed, it would result in a substantial increase in the traffic through Somerby and adjacent villages, including Burrough on the Hill where we live. There is already a significant problem in Somerby itself because a large number of local residents have nowhere else to park their vehicles other than along the High Street, effectively turning this into a single-track thoroughfare with passing places. During busy periods or when large vehicles (such as Nesbit Bros. coaches, local buses, refuse collection and delivery vehicles) are attempting to pass, it can be chaotic. Only a couple of weeks ago, we personally were held up for some five minutes in attempting to travel through Somerby due to a log-jam of vehicles. Allowing the construction of some 42 additional houses with access only onto the High Street will only serve to make this problem substantially worse.

Over the past few years, we have been involved with the local Community Speed Watch programme, and this has only served to emphasise that the 30mph speed limit in our village is widely ignored, with some vehicles travelling along the straight part of Main Street at speeds of up to 50mph. Of course, this has significant safety implications to the local residents. The construction of an additional 42 residences in Somerby will only serve to increase the number of vehicles travelling through Burrough on the Hill and make these safety issues even worse.

The increase in traffic in Somerby itself will also adversely affect the safety of horses and their riders who regularly use the High Street, particularly those from the Riding School.

We are given to understand that Melton BC has classed Somerby as a service centre, and as such capable of absorbing the proposed development. With respect, this is nonsense. Apart from a small local shop and a doctor's surgery, there are no local services available within a 7-mile radius. The surgery itself is already heavily subscribed and cannot absorb the pressure of extra patients without a serious deterioration of service for local residents, particularly those who are not able easily to travel to alternative surgeries in Oakham and Melton.

The proposed development will also have the effect of urbanising a picturesque and scenic area which is enjoyed by many walkers and horse riders, particularly those using the Leicestershire Round path. We understand that the Leicestershire Round/Jubilee Way footpath network is intended to be a flagship item of the Melton Borough Green Infrastructure project, and yet the proposed development will severely harm land that is designated as Primary Green Infrastructure.

It is also inequitable that Melton BC appears to have targeted Somerby for large-scale development when there are other large villages nearby (particularly Great Dalby) that are no less suitable and yet have no plans for new housing.

Derek & Helen Cooper