

Malmesbury Town Council

(ENGLAND'S OLDEST BOROUGH - CHARTER GRANTED 880)

Richard Spencer-Williams
Town Clerk



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Dear Lee,

At Tuesday's MTC Planning & Environment Committee, residents living in Avon Road, Malmesbury raised their concerns over the handling of application 13/01868/FUL, that relates to land to the rear of 52 Corn Gastons, which backs onto residences in Avon Road.

MTC has always had serious concerns about residential development on this site. The Town Council vigorously objected to the original application, which was subsequently approved at the Northern Area Planning Committee in April 2015.

Following a request to WC Enforcement to investigate suspected breaches in the planning permission, a report was sent to MTC and the resident from WC Enforcement indicating that the development had in fact commenced before the end of the three year period, the parking area appeared to be being built to the dimensions shown on the plans and that the appearance of a second window to the rear of the property (increasing the overlooking of gardens in Avon Road) had been approved via a revised application in September 2017. The existence of this revised plan and subsequent approval was news to MTC and the residents as there had been no additional consultation or even placement of the revised scheme on the web site; it is still not available as of yesterday's date.

A recent house purchase has been concluded at one of the affected Avon Road properties, which the new owners advise would not have gone ahead if this information had been made available. Given the very unpopular original decision and the harmful impact that increasing the number of windows to the rear of these two properties would be known to have on neighbour privacy, MTC is at a loss to understand why a further consultation was not held and the decision taken.

Your views on this matter would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Mann,
Deputy Town Clerk