

Bredon, Bredon's Norton and Westmancote Parish Council



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Large Scale Housing at Mitton Bank

Developers are preparing an application to develop large amounts of housing at Mitton Bank (between Bredon's Hardwick and Mitton) falling within Bredon parish.

Currently, new housing in our parish must comply both with the *South Worcestershire Development Plan* (the 'local plan') and the recently adopted *Bredon Parish Neighbourhood Plan*. Under both plans, development at Mitton Bank would normally be ruled out, at least until the next review of the local plan.

However, the situation is complicated by the government's '*duty to cooperate*' which requires neighbouring local authorities to work together on planning issues. Bredon parish borders Tewkesbury Borough in Gloucestershire to the south and west. Housing in Tewkesbury falls under the Gloucester-Cheltenham-Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy (JCS). This is currently undergoing an *Examination in Public* overseen by a government inspector. In her Interim Report, the Inspector has identified that Tewkesbury Borough has a significant housing shortfall, and she identified Mitton Bank as a location for between 500 and 1100 homes. She has recommended that Wychavon District Council and the JCS authorities enter into an agreement that will effectively allocate land for 500 homes at Mitton without the need for a review of the local plan.

The Parish Council disagrees strongly with the Inspector's proposal. We have made a series of representations arguing that housing of this scale should only come forward through a review of the local plan. This would allow local people to be properly consulted, as required by national policy, and would enable any housing to be better planned and integrated.

In the meantime, the developers Barratt Homes and Mactaggart & Mickel Homes appear to be preparing a planning application for 500 new homes in Bredon parish at Mitton Bank. They have notified the Parish Council that they will be holding a series of consultation events on their proposals over the coming weeks. We cannot advise people whether they should attend these events. However, it is important to note that **these are not part of an official consultation**, and that any comments submitted by residents at this stage will not have a significant bearing on the outcome. **Residents will have an opportunity later on, once an application has been submitted, to take part in the formal consultation process.** At that stage, we will be urging residents to make their views known, and we will publish information on how to do this on our website.