

**From:** Rhodri Jones  
**Sent:** 28 January 2014 11:47  
**To:** Geraint Nicholas Roberts  
**Cc:** Richard Wood  
**Subject:** CONIN/13/1279 - Land South of Glan Usk Primary School

Dear Geraint,

**PROPOSAL: DEVELOPMENT OF 248 DWELLINGS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS INCLUDING BOUNDARY TREATMENTS, RETAINING WALLS, VEHICULAR ACCESS, PARKING, PATHWAYS AND LANDSCAPING AFFECTING PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY 407/1**

**SITE: Land to South of Glan Usk Primary School, Herbert Road, Newport**

The proposal consists of a very dense development, a large proportion of which is along the Usk riverfront. The Usk is one of the major rivers of Wales, designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at UK level, and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) at EU level, functioning as the primary wildlife corridor through the city. Vegetated riverfronts are important for a range of species, but particularly so for migrating birds and semi-aquatic species, such as otters (*Lutra lutra*), one of the species for which the Usk received its SAC designation.

The importance of the riverfront is recognised in the Newport Unitary Development Plan, under which, the entire riverfront area of the site falls within the Environmental Space designation (CE33). The remainder of the site falls under Housing Allocations H1(5) and H1(47).

I am aware of the previous application for this site, 03/1531, for which consent was granted. Under this proposal, the majority of the riverfront area would have remained relatively undeveloped, leaving a vegetated buffer and PROW between the riverbank and the road. This would be preferable to the current proposal.

The current proposal is for a road immediately adjacent to a combined footpath and cycleway along the majority of the riverside area, leaving no natural or semi-natural habitat. In relation to the previous proposal it represents a definite reduction in the ecological value of the site.

To allow a dense development such as this in close proximity to one of the most ecologically important rivers of Wales, in an area designated as Environmental Space, sets damaging precedent for future development in similar sites.

I therefore **object** to the proposal in its current form.

### **Suggested Amendments**

1. To reduce the detrimental effects of the development, I would propose leaving the PROW in its current state, fringed by a vegetated buffer. Where possible existing vegetation should be maintained, but could be enhanced by the planting of further native tree/shrub species.
2. A combined road and cycleway could then be sited further in from the riverbank.

3. Lighting should primarily be located along the combined road/cycleway. Some could be located along the PROW, but directed away from the river, to avoid lightspill.

Regards,  
Rhodri

Rhodri Jones BSc (Hons), MSc  
Ecologist  
Green Services  
Newport City Council

Tel: (01633)210557