

Dear Sirs.

I am a Parish Councillor in Braishfield having lived in the Village for over 40 years.

But I submit this response to the consultation on a personal basis on behalf of my wife and I.

Braishfield is historically a village made up of a collection of hamlets with each centred around local farms, and although there has been some growth in recent years there has been no infilling and that settlement pattern remains.

*Its appeal as a tranquil rural village with character and beauty depends not only on the quality and design of its housing stock but in equal measure on the combination of its hamlet layout, the open spaces and farmland between the hamlets and its setting. Located in the countryside it is surrounded by fields and hedgerows. It does not have a two lane main road running through it and only narrow country lanes connecting the village centre with the outlying hamlets and neighbouring village. Several fields near the centre of the village have been left uncultivated and these are generally regarded as valuable open spaces that provide fertile hunting ground for barn and tawny owls, buzzards, kestrels, red kites and sparrow hawks, and sanctuary for a very wide variety of birds and butterflies.*

*The defining characteristic of the village is the presence of open countryside and farmland found right at its centre, separating hamlet from hamlet. The hamlets have no formal status or agreed boundaries but they are geographically separate.*

*We hope the new local plan will recognise the above and not allow inappropriate infill which would fundamentally change the nature of the village and its surroundings.*

Richard and Diana Brazier

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