

- Kingston Maurward College has applied for outline planning permission for 70 houses in Lower Bockhampton, which currently has only 28 dwellings.
- The proposed development is on two sites, lying almost entirely within a Conservation Area and on Registered Parkland.
- Lower Bockhampton has no facilities. There is no village hall, shop or pub. There is no public transport, no mains drainage and no mains gas. The development is completely unsustainable.
- Lower Bockhampton is exceptionally beautiful. The views of the cottages, bridge and water meadows are the principal reason for its Conservation Area status. The development would be visible from Bockhampton Bridge, the river path and throughout the hamlet.
- Lower Bockhampton is popular for walking, running, cycling and horse riding. The river path is a historic link to Dorchester which allows families to enjoy the countryside away from traffic.
- The proposed development is close to the river Frome, home to water voles, otters and kingfishers. This habitat is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and would be at grave risk from the proximity of housing and surface drainage.
- The hamlet has 8 sheltered bungalows which would be surrounded by the new development. The elderly residents would experience increased noise and traffic.
- Lower Bockhampton has strong connections with Thomas Hardy; it features in his novels and attracts many visitors from all over the world. The development would damage the setting of his old school and other historical buildings.
- Access and road safety are a major concern. Bockhampton Lane is mainly single track without designated passing spaces. The road is already busy with through traffic. One plot is accessed by a single track lane which includes the entrance to the children's play area. Any increase in residential and service traffic would compromise safety.

If this development goes ahead, the natural beauty and rural character of Lower Bockhampton and the Frome Valley would be lost forever.

We urgently need your help. All comments must be received before 29th November 2014.

You can see the application on:
www.dorsetforyou.com/planningapplications

Choose West Dorset District Council and search for the application number WD/D/14/002555 or Kingston Maurward.

Comments can be made online, by email (planning@westdorset-dc.gov.uk), or you can write to David Hodges, the Case Officer, at West Dorset District Council, South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester, DT1 1UZ quoting the application number.

To find out more email:
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