

Letter to **Witney Gazette** 28/11/12

Clear Disadvantages of East Carterton Homes Site

Sir

I was interested to read the letters by Gail Wilson (Witney Gazette 28/12/ 2012) and Natasha Saveall (Witney Gazette 14/12/2012) extolling the virtues of the Carterton East site for a new development of at least 700 houses. I wonder if they have considered the disadvantages of this site - in particular for those buying these houses. Would they like to live there?

It seems bizarre to build homes in an area blighted by severe noise pollution (see official "noise maps" provided by the base). The main maintenance facility for the RAF's biggest airport is a mere 600m from the proposed housing. Noise from revving engines funnels between the hangars, exacerbated by the prevailing wind. Complaints from local residents have increased enormously since the Hercules arrived. Light pollution is another significant factor, especially as maintenance is carried out at night. The bright lights will be clearly visible. The wind brings the unpleasant smell and oily residue from aviation fuel, which leaves glass covered in a thin layer of oil that is almost impossible to remove.

The proposed area is bounded on three sides by industrial sites, two of which are MOD land with high fences and barbed wire; surely this smacks more of a concentration camp than a "sustainable development" which should provide pleasant housing within easy reach of schools and shops. The industrial area to the west lies directly on the route that secondary children would need to walk to get to the school, situated on the west of the town. They would need to walk up to 2km and some parents would probably drive their children there, increasing traffic into the town unnecessarily.

Yours sincerely