

The Planning Inspector
The Planning Inspectorate
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

16 May 2017

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposed residential development at Ystrad Barwig

I wish to make a further submission in respect of this proposed development. Your records will show that I have made two previous submissions:

- My first submission focused on my concerns in respect of transport infrastructure and the impact on road congestion and safety, and on flood risk.
- My second submission highlighted my concerns in respect of healthcare provision. It is on this issue that I wish to make additional comments.

In my submission dated 6th April 2017 I drew attention to the increasing pressure placed on local GP practises by the growth in new residential developments. These concerns were raised by the Practise Manager at the Parc Canol surgery (whose catchment area includes the proposed Ystrad Barwig site), where there is currently a capacity shortfall of 300 appointments per week. In my submission I asked that a robust analysis of healthcare capacity is undertaken before any final decision is taken on Ystrad Barwig.

I have recently met with senior managers at Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council who have confirmed that there is no input from the local Health Board in respect of residential planning other than at the LDP stage (and then the input is limited). You will be aware that the Ystrad Barwig development falls outside the LDP and as a result I am extremely concerned that no consideration has been given to the impact on healthcare services for the many thousands of residents served by Parc Canol and other local practises. This has increased my conviction that it is vital that the impact on healthcare services of this, and other developments such as the nearby Cwm Coke Works site, is fully understood.

The challenges around healthcare capacity are complex, but it is absolutely clear that new housing developments play a significant role. As the local Assembly Member, my responsibility is to represent the interests of all constituents who will be affected by this development and I do not believe that a sustainable decision can be made without the voice of healthcare providers being properly heard.

Yours sincerely,

Mick Antoniw
Assembly Member for Pontypridd