

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL



CIL Speech – 9th August, 2016

Good morning/afternoon, my name is Bridget Sugg and I am Chairman of East Coker Parish Council.

I'm not going to talk about facts and figures, I am going to leave that to my colleagues Barry and Andrew the experts, but I would like to represent the people of East Coker and Yeovil who do not have a voice and do not understand or have ever heard of CIL but do know their town and village will change drastically with the building of Keyford and Primrose Lane, and not for the better.

Just building houses is not the answer and SSDC should learn from the very big mistake of Wyndam Park, that was left to the 106 agreement and when it came to putting the 106 into place the developers pleaded poverty and they were let off scot free, this could so easily happen to Keyford and Primrose Lane, if these sites are not viable they should not be building on grade one agriculture land. Yeovil's infrastructure is failing due to lack of investment.

With neighbouring Councils, like West Dorset and Weymouth, Yeovil is getting left behind, in fact we already are. Remember sleepy Dorchester, well it's not so sleepy anymore, with its new modern and pleasing architecture and trendy restaurants, it attracts people from miles around. Dorchester being only 20 minutes along the A37 it attracts Yeovil residents for leisure activities and yes, people do want to eat Japanese! What have we got to offer here in Yeovil? Oh yes, a new drive through, Sub Way and a Kentucky Fried Chicken!!!!!!

People have choices today and more leisure times and as Councillor's we have a duty to make our towns and villages work.

East Coker Parish Council are in the advanced draft stages of our neighbourhood plan, to get to this level we have done lots of consultations with our parishioners and most

of their concerns are how Keyford is going to affect day to day life in the Parish. We have reassured them that with the money from CIL would help us with this change.

The suggested project would be to acknowledge the contribution and significance of TS Eliot to East Coker by creating a multi-purpose space for meetings, study centres, library and exhibitions. The building would be called The TS Eliot Centre and would be attached to the Church or if this proved difficult in view of the conservation area and Grade 1 listed buildings in closed vicinity, to convert the Chapel in the Cemetery. A car park/coach park would be required and there is a possibility of purchasing the field by the side of the existing Vicarage.

In terms of public benefits, these are many fold, and would include an increase in tourism, and economic reward for some businesses and overnight accommodation.

We have looked into enlarging our football pitch for our very successful children, Coker Cockerels Club, improving the cricket pitch and changing room, so East Coker cricket team has good enough facilities to enter into league matches and of course help with traffic issues that are only going to get worse, due to our Parish doubling in size when Keyford is built.

One thing we can be sure of, no developer will lay a brick unless they are in profit so we do not have to worry on their part, they will always have a voice, so listen to your people and not your developer's and let's put Yeovil back on the map, let's be proud of our towns and villages because they have the right infrastructure put in place.