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INVERURIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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 Aberdeenshire AB51 3WA



7 November 2006

Dear Steven

Uryside Planning Development framework

Firstly, the Community Council would like to make what may appear a pedantic but perfectly reasonable point. Throughout the document reference is made to the Rive Urie rather than Ury.

The planning department is already aware of the community council's concerns with regard to the retail park, housing in this area and the impact of the development on infrastructure, traffic, roads and the environment and would refer you to our letters of 7 April and 22 August 2006. I propose to mention additional points which have been raised by members, elaborate on others and pose some questions.

In the document mention is made of integration. Reference to a 'high quality environment' for 'higher quality homes' does not sit comfortably with the idea, rather making a distinction between some of these homes and others. A grand entrance to the village further undermines integration, as does the preponderance of larger homes as opposed to smaller ones. Members disliked the title of 'Osprey Village'. We note that pinching down the development may help to prevent the barriers that might exist between the development, retail and business parks.

A community school, in the true sense, is to be welcomed. That is a community building which is available for use by all of Inverurie, not just when it is not required for educational purposes. There are reservations about small neighbourhood shops and offices close to the school. Existing shops in the town should be used. On reflection, we consider shops in close proximity to the school would encourage youngsters to gather at night. The proposed drop off point for school children is viewed as problematic. We wondered why there are proposals for speed limits during peak school times and not at others or, indeed, all the time? The Council notes that the building is intended to be as eco-friendly as possible and wonders if the Council considered ground source heat pumps?