

10th October 2020

The Manager
Meander Valley Council

EO	OD		
Action Officer	OC	Dept.	Q
Rcvd	13 OCT 2020	MVC	
Doc No.			
Index No.	502-90-090		

RE: Proposed Re-Zoning of Westbury
Planning Laws.

I am a long term resident of Westbury. In 21 years I have had no reason to complain about a lack of amenities here and I am appreciative of the many attributes the Village has to offer, not seen in other municipalities.

I question the reason for this sudden need for change, why now, and why the rush? In view of Covid 19 restrictions and the lack of Council Consultation I believe all Major changes to Planning laws and other Major decisions be taken to the next Council Elections.

I object to immediate Planning changes without proper consultation because ---

1. People choose to live here because of the quality of life with clean air, rural lifestyle and low traffic volume.
2. We appreciate the space, the quiet and everchanging beautiful landscapes that our Tourists come here to enjoy.
3. We take responsibility for our properties and care about our town which attracts likeminded people and helps to keep our crime rates to a minimum. note - Tidy Town Award.
4. Our History and Heritage status is important to us, needing protection and respect.
5. I am not opposed to development that is in keeping with our Heritage and natural growth pattern.

All the reasons listed above will be lost with cramped dwellings, congestion, parking and traffic issues, noise, light pollution, lost agricultural opportunities, increased crime, lower property values, increased water, insurance and

P2.

Council rates, also a loss of Tourists and the livelihood of many.

We do not have essential services here for such rapid expansion eg. our sewerage system and old infrastructure. There are far too few places left that offer all that we have here in Westbury and it is essential for society that quiet, safe places exist for elderly people to live and die and young families to grow in a safe, supportive, caring community. For these reasons Westbury will always be valuable and sought after by good people.

It is time for Council to come clean and explain to all Ratepayers the need for lots of squalid little dwellings that are not in keeping with Heritage Values. What is the targeted demographic, and what will all these people do here?

There is a lack of planning foresight, social responsibility and accountability regarding these proposed changes. I question the need to hire more Planning Officers - it is time to hire an Environmental and Heritage Officer in order for a more balanced vision for Westbury.

You should be proud of OUR beautiful Village and stop trying to destroy it. If Mr Badcock, of questionable character and others don't want their land then they should sell it on to others who may appreciate it and be able to enhance it.

It is time for Quality NOT Quantity.