

I am one of the owners of Cleveland Hills View Holiday Park. Some of you will be aware that I have been trying to vary the conditions on the park to allow the mobile homes to be used residentially but such proposals received no support from the Parish Council.

Without local support, there would seem little chance that the park will be allowed to be used in a more beneficial manner – it is only partly used at the moment because most interest has been from people wanting to live here. I have felt obliged to turn them away for, although the site is used all year round, it is still limited to holiday accommodation.

The units could have been sold several times over with most going to local people if the conditions had been relaxed, so providing much needed bungalow type of accommodation for the over 55s.

The local view, expressed via the Neighbourhood Plan process or by the Parish Council in responding to applications or local plan consultations from Hambleton District Council, will almost certainly be vital in influencing Hambleton as planning authority. Hambleton agree that there is a great need for bungalow style accommodation for local older people and that bungalows will not be provided in sufficient numbers through new housing schemes but do not appear to want to allow mobile home parks to help meet this need.

Whilst I can see that new mobile home sites may not be widely supported locally, Cleveland Hills View is already fully serviced and operational with no new pitches being proposed. Use by the over 55s with one or two residents per home should be a less intensive use than holiday homes and will make no difference to the appearance of the area – it is really down to what brings most benefit, both to the community and the owners of the site like me! Demand as a holiday site has been surprisingly modest while requests to live here have been extremely high. It seems to me that allowing residential occupation of the homes is the best option for everyone and will go some way to meeting the need for bungalow type accommodation for older people. This must bring greater benefits than holiday use, especially as many of the inquiries made of Cleveland Hills have been from local people wanting to downsize or free up property for use by adult children.

Hambleton's planners are already well forward in setting out a firm framework for the provision of housing so it appears vital that the Neighbourhood Plan feeds into that as soon as possible. As well as potentially enabling homes for older people to be specifically provided for, allocating this site positively should reduce pressure to release green field land elsewhere and the problems that is likely to bring.

I would hope that most local people will feel that making a more beneficial use of what is effectively a brownfield, sustainable site is preferable to developing greenfield land elsewhere, especially as using the units at Cleveland View residentially is not really any different to using them as year round holiday homes.

Thank you for the opportunity to put across my view which I hope you will feel able to support and put forward within the Neighbourhood Plan.