

In response to the Garden Village Press Release the Parish Council sent the following to the leader of Blaby District Council, Cllr T Richardson:

We refer to the Press Release regarding the Garden Village Status Award.

The Parish Council feel that, given the potential impact on Countesthorpe, it would have been courteous to have officially informed the Parish Council regarding the application for Garden Village Status and the submission to MGCLG for Whetstone Pastures.

It is very disappointing to learn of the Garden Village via a news release. Members of public have been attending our council meetings requesting information. However, as we had not received any details from Blaby District Council, we have been unable to comment or pass information on but have assured members of public that we will share information as soon as it is available.

We understand that this is a three-stage process: is this the first stage? The press release suggests that the Garden Village at Whetstone is a forgone conclusion, with no mention of a staged process or mention of other sites being taken into consideration in this process.

According to the press release there are nineteen sites across the country: where are these sites? Have other sites been considered in Leicestershire?

The inconsiderate comment '.... and nothing for residents to be concerned about' is particularly concerning as it will clearly have a profound effect on Countesthorpe and the surrounding villages. Obviously, residents in our village are deeply concerned and we would have thought this would be taken into account rather than dismiss, or ignore, people's concerns as you have done.

Countesthorpe Parish Council is always very careful not to have a predetermined view when considering planning applications, however this press release makes it quite clear that the leader of Blaby District Council Councillors has already made his decision.