



## *Constitution*

*Apley Castle residents have now formed and constituted 'Apley Preservation Association' 'APA' will facilitate coherent and effective communication of resident's issues and concerns about the proposed development of 200 homes off Peregrine Way.*

*Our aim will be to bring together residents, planners, landowners and their agents into an open and constructive dialogue.*

*We are seeking total and inclusive community support and would invite your membership and feedback to 'Apley Preservation Association'.*

*We believe that the outline planning application for 200 dwellings does not meet the requirements of this community now or in the future and is not sympathetic to the area and will damage the fabric of our neighbourhood.*

*Telford is a developing new town, which has successfully attracted significant inward investment and employment which in turn creates the need for high quality housing. The Apley Castle estates should be an inspiration to town planners and developers as they have created a place where people want to live and work and aspire to.*

*Please help support the campaign to prevent this unpopular and unnecessary development from ruining this lovely environment we all call home.*

*Your voice as a member of the community must heard, together through 'APA' the message will get through loud and clear!*

### **RESIDENTS DESPERATE TO SAVE APLEY HERITAGE.**

*Local residents, whose homes surround the grounds of the former historic Apley Castle, are desperately trying to preserve and protect the remaining heritage site and wildlife sanctuary, following a shocking housing development application submitted by English Partnerships.*

*The outrageous application, planned for the remaining two small fields, is to build a dense development of 180-200 dwellings, the majority of which will be three storey high flats designated for social housing!*

*The two fields in question, off Peregrine Way and Sparrowhawk Way, are currently flanked by prestigious, four and five bedroom detached homes, which were sympathetically designed to compliment the area. Residents believed that any further housing developments deemed necessary, should continue in the same vein and compliment the historic site, but would take into consideration the preservation of Apley Castle grounds and the wildlife haven.*

### *Why destroy this beautiful environment !!!*

*Apley Castle is probably the most historic and beautiful area within the borough of Telford and Wrekin and the history of the Castle, surrounding grounds and parkland, have to date, been carefully considered and preserved, prior to development approval.*

*The fields are a haven for wildlife and the feeding grounds for many species of birds, in particular the endangered Song Thrush, Jay, Woodpecker, Pheasant and Grouse. Many types of frogs and toads are also regularly spotted. Sadly, as more properties have been built on the land, it has become apparent that the wildlife is rapidly disappearing. We must stop this now and save what is left of the remaining habitat. However, the new proposals have been met with anger and disbelief. Residents are unable to comprehend the ideas behind such an inconceivable plan for an area of outstanding beauty and historic importance. Apley was the only castle in the borough and these proposals, should they be approved will be an insult to our former heritage.*

*It is incomprehensible that residents find themselves having to fight to save sites of historic importance and local wildlife, when automatic preservation rights should be granted. How can this development possibly be justified?*

*One resident who has recently moved to the Apley Castle estate was devastated to receive notification of the planning application. Their family moved from an area in Telford that incorporated social housing and were constantly terrorised by violence, crime and abuse. They became prisoners in their own home and feared for the safety of their children. This problem can not be forced upon this site of natural beauty and history.*

*Telford is a developing town, but we are in danger of encouraging 'inner-city' problems if such developments are allowed to progress. Many families now living in the borough fled from areas such as Birmingham and Wolverhampton to escape violence and crime and are appalled to find these problems are on the increase here!*

*It is appreciated that there is a need for all types of housing, but the areas in which they are built must be seriously considered and building these types of properties in the grounds of a former castle, enjoyed by wildlife and the public is totally unacceptable.*

*There are 4850 new homes currently planned or under development in the borough. Permission for a mixed use development of up to 750 at East Ketley, 3,300 at Lawley and 800 at Lightmore. This does not include the massive development planned for Telford Town Park or Donnington and any others that we do not yet know about!*

*The proposed development would also cause access difficulties. It is proposed that the huge increase in vehicular access would be via Peregrine Way and Sparrowhawk Way, but these roads were not designed to cope with this level of traffic and will cause major congestion and safety issues.*

*There is no indication of parking spaces or private garages. Does this mean another 400 cars will line the surrounding roads, block driveways and cause further safety and crime issues?*

*There is no indication of any open or recreational space remaining for such a dense population. The fact that Apley Castle is identified as a 'Greenway' in the Local Plan seems to bear no relevance to the proposed plans and this historic site will become a high rise concrete mass!*

*Mark Pritchard, Wrekin MP, asks council chiefs, 'to prove a need before development and to ensure that open spaces and recreational areas are protected'. He also accuses the council of, 'using the obvious need for affordable housing as a catch-all excuse for overdevelopment and placing mixed housing in inappropriate locations'. And added, 'The Council needs to tread very carefully in the way it consults local people and in what development proposals it eventually brings forward if it is to avoid embarrassing itself at a future Local Plan Inquiry'.*

*Mr Pritchard confirms that many constituents are in the process of reporting the Council to the Local Government Ombudsman over many of the developments proposed by the council and are what MPs call 'the perception that the Council may have acted beyond its legal powers'.*

*Access to public transport is also an issue for the Apley Castle site and the proposed development would expect to house a minimum of a further 200 children, which would cause further problems for the local schools. The local doctors and other community services are already full to capacity.*

*The residents of Apley have requested a meeting with English Partnerships asking them to explain their reasons and ideas behind this shocking proposal, but sadly, to date, they have not complied, but the residents are compelled to continue their fight to preserve and protect the wildlife and heritage of Apley Castle.*

*Residents need to be aware of ALL the facts. This development will not only affect the residents located on the immediate perimeter. The impact will be felt much further a field! Do the residents realise that this development could instantly wipe £20,000-£30,000 pounds off the value of their home? Yes, a shocking fact!*

*Should this development be approved and allowed to proceed it will be a grave mistake. The remaining history and heritage of Apley Castle will be lost. Wildlife, green, tranquil, open space will disappear. Concrete, three storey high flats will be in its place accompanied by crime and violence. It will be a very sad future for the borough of Telford and Wrekin if we do not stop it now!*

*To find out more about the development plans please visit [www.apley-castle-park.org](http://www.apley-castle-park.org)*

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