

Bid for family homes on edge of village

A family has launched a new bid to build homes on a paddock after claiming new housing on the edge of their village has 'changed the landscape'.

Carol Auld wants to build three houses for her and her daughters to live in on the land off Elphinstone Main Street, in East Lothian.

And she argues that while the paddock, which is used for sheep grazing, is described as being in the countryside by planners, the impact of a new housing estate on the other side of the road has been 'dramatic'.

In a statement to East Lothian planners, her agent says: "The context of the site has changed dramatically.



Artists impression of new houses proposed at Elphinstone pic courtesy ELC planning portal

“It no longer has the character of a grass field/paddock just outside the village, but will be very much part of the western edge of Elphinstone providing visual (and stylistic) balance to the development on the north of the road into the village.”

Bellway Homes are building around 100 new homes on land on the other side of the Main Street from the paddock which is next to The Stables.

Planning officers refused a previous application for the three houses because they said it was against countryside policy which did not allow new build housing in the countryside unless there are exceptional circumstance.

And they are recommending the current application is rejected for the same reason when it comes before the council’s planning committee next week.

In their report to councillors, officers say: “A supporting statement has been submitted with the application that states that ‘given the scale of development to the north redefining the shape and size of the Elphinstone

settlement the applicant wishes to create three new homes for her and her daughters on land they own immediately to the south of the Bellway development site and on land that would be within the new extent of Elphinstone.”

However they add: “The erection of three houses on the application site would be new build housing development in the countryside of East Lothian on land which is not allocated for housing development.”

By Marie Sharp Local Democracy Reporter