

From: Francis Camilleri [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 February 2026 21:40
To: LDP <LDP@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>; Planning <Planning@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>;
pac@turleystc.com
Subject: Additional comments - Church Farm Proposal, St Athan – Hedgerows, Materials and
Site Frontage

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Dear Sir/Madam

Further to my earlier comments on the Church Farm proposal, I would like to add a few additional points after reviewing the layout and the supporting RLDP material.

Hedgerows and landscape

The drawings show that existing hedgerows are to be retained. However, many appear to sit directly behind rear garden fences. From what I have read in the RLDP about green infrastructure and protecting landscape features, these hedgerows are meant to form part of the site's overall landscape structure, not simply act as garden boundaries.

I would therefore ask that proper space is left between gardens and the retained hedgerows, that they are protected during construction, and that there is a clear long-term plan for their maintenance. These hedgerows contribute to the rural character of this edge of St Athan and should remain strong, healthy features over time.

Materials and village character

The layout shows a large number of standard house types repeated across the site. I appreciate that this is common on developments of this size, but it makes the choice of materials and the treatment of the main edges even more important.

Older parts of St Athan are characterised by stone and white render, simple building forms and a softer edge to the countryside. The RLDP refers to respecting local character and distinctiveness. I would ask that this is reflected in the materials used, particularly along Gileston Road, at the main entrance and on the more visible parts of the site. This would help the development feel like part of St Athan rather than a separate, generic estate.

Retail area and the B4265

As in my previous correspondence the proposed retail area should be located on the B4625. As it is likely to shape the first impression the design should offer a clear and well-designed edge to the village.

The building and its frontage should be carefully designed, with appropriate materials and landscaping, so that it sits comfortably on the main B4265 road and strengthens the sense of arrival into the Gileston Road corner and War Memorial of St Athan.

I would also like you to consider making vehicle access to site only from the B4625 and not Gileston Road. This would be consistent with other developments along the B4265.

These points are offered in the hope that the scheme can be shaped in a way that better reflects the character and landscape of the village, in line with the principles set out in the RLDP.

Francis