

Homes development on former Wrexham scrapyards rejected by Welsh Government minister

Welsh Government's climate change minister has rejected plans to build homes on a former scrapyards.

An application to develop 15 properties on the former Legacy Car Dismantlers and Scrap Yard, near Rhosllanerchrugog, was supported by Wrexham Council's planning committee in July 2020.

It was approved against the advice of officers and later called in by the Welsh Government.

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Now Climate Change minister Julie James has refused planning permission on the advice of planning inspectorate.

In the report, the inspector said: "Whilst I have found that a number of site constraints could be satisfactorily mitigated through the imposition of suitably worded planning conditions, I have also found that the proposal represents an unsustainable form of development that would conflict with the sustainability and placemaking principles that underpin national and local policy.

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“It has also not been satisfactorily demonstrated that a connection to the mains sewer would not be feasible or financially viable.”

It had been proposed by the applicant that foul effluent would be drained to a wastewater treatment plant given difficulties connecting to the public sewer.

Natural Resources Wales raised significant concerns saying that a connection to the main sewerage system is “reasonable and necessary, particularly given the location of the site within the catchment of the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC”.

Climate Change minister Julie James concluded: “I agree with the Inspector’s reasoning and conclusions.

“For the reasons given I hereby refuse planning permission.”

At the Wrexham council planning meeting, council leader Mark Pritchard, had said application to redevelop the site had the support of community councillors and residents after becoming a target for crime.

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