



23/10/2019.

Local Plan Housing Statement
Planning Policy Team
Havant Borough Council
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Way
HAVANT PO9 2AX

Dear Sir/Madam

Re:- Objection to plans to build 50 new houses on the field South of Lower Road, Old Bedhampton

We are shocked to see the above proposal and very surprised that although we are aware of the Government's house building mandate, we did not expect it to totally disregard the irreparable damage this proposed development would have on the Conservation Area of 'Old Bedhampton', the oldest Settlement in the Borough.

 see more of the activity in the area than most people as we walk our dogs twice a day - sometimes at busy 'rush hour' times and sometimes not – basically giving a fully informed view.

I would like to ask the planners to confirm how they would overcome the following-

Access:

The only way to access the proposed site is via a Restricted and Dangerous Road **incapable of improvement:-**

- The proposed development will effectively double the domestic traffic in Old Bedhampton, exacerbated further by delivery traffic using the route. Currently there are approximately 80 houses accessed via Lower Road, and this proposed development would increase this by two-thirds
- The vehicle access can only be via the two-way narrow, blind and winding bends at the start of Lower Road which has no footways.
- There is **no prospect of changing this arrangement**.
- There are two elderly accommodation homes located on these bends, whose residents frequently walk (accompanied and unaccompanied) around Old Bedhampton, and increased traffic will surely increase the possibility of a pedestrian being injured or killed.

- Even with the current traffic volume, there are near misses most days on the bends and on the approach at the end of Brookside Road where cars park close to the bend, with close shaves between vehicles being very common and happening several times a day. There was a very close 'head-on' collision on the narrow bends only a couple of weeks ago between a Dustbin Lorry and car, resulting in the Lorry having to stop suddenly and reverse to enable the car through.
- To make things more hazardous, the route though Lower Road forms part of the cycle network linking onto the coastal route to Portsmouth. This has resulted in greater use by cyclists, mainly responsible ones, but there are also a number of others who cut corners and display no lights in Winter Months - Any additional traffic would make this area even more dangerous, increasing the chances of a fatality **(I guess the local council will have to make sure their liability insurance is up to date and sufficient if risks are increased further by increasing traffic volume).**
- We have seen a number of cyclists fall from their bikes on Lower Road whilst attempting to avoid oncoming cars. As pedestrian dog walkers using these bends most mornings, (peak cyclist time 7.30 – 8 am), we have to be very careful of oncoming cyclists who approach fast and often don't see us until the last minute and have to take sudden avoidance action (swerving) to avoid collision. Most vehicles approaching the bends (from either direction) use the centre of the road, instead of the left (and fast), which puts any oncoming cyclist (and us) in danger. Any increase in traffic will increase the chances of a serious accident happening.
There is again, **no prospect for improvement.**

Access via Brookside Road:

- The volume of traffic trying to use the mini-roundabout at the top of Brookside Road (bottom of Bedhampton Hill Road) with the junction of the B2177, **has already increased to breaking point** due to recent nearby developments. This roundabout only has a two vehicle waiting bay if you are waiting to turn into Brookside Road, causing traffic to back up onto the junction creating serious risk of accident.
- We have seen numerous car and cycle accidents at the top of Brookside Road (minor and major collisions) caused by increased traffic volume stemming from this roundabout.
- **Additional increased traffic volume caused by the proposed development in Lower Road would certainly create some serious accident risk.**
- Brookside Road does not have a footway all the way to the end due to the Hermitage Stream that runs beside it. This acts as an informal traffic calming and is a scenic Oasis used by families, children dog walkers & wheelchair users. More traffic volume on the scale proposed would be dangerous to say the least.
- There is again, **no prospect for improvement.**

Increased Traffic Volume effect on A3M junction & A3M

One of the most alarming 'major accident' potential areas we see as locally observant dog walkers, which almost certainly will result from increased traffic volume from a development in Lower Road, would be from the fact that this extra traffic will impact on the B2177 junction with The Broadmarsh roundabout, already the biggest 'snarl up' **and scene of the most collisions we see each day.** More traffic volume would also cause more back-ups onto the A3M Broadmarsh junction, **potentially creating queues onto the A3M itself.** **This 'will definitely occur' if the larger development being planned for the fields west of the Broadmarsh roundabout goes ahead, which seems very likely.**

Could you please confirm to us all the Access problems noted above have been discussed with 'Highways Agency'.

Nature Conservation

We understand this land has been identified as 'important' as a Brent Goose site, and used as a resting spot. The hedge bordering the proposed site is one of the only places in the surrounding area where there are at least two flourishing Sparrow flocks, which have been resident for many years.

For the increased traffic volume problems alone, or in combination with our other concerns we therefore feel it entirely wrong to raise any expectations of development south of Lower Road.

Yours Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.