

We're writing this letter to express how unhappy we are with the proposed development of the fields to the south of Lower Road, Bedhampton (APP/19/00427). Whilst we understand that nobody wants housing development in their local area, it seems to us that this particular plan is unsuitable for a number of reasons.

One of the main issues is that the road, as it comes past The Elms, is narrow and has little or in some places no pavement. It's already incredibly dangerous, and we narrowly avoid collisions with cars, cyclists and pedestrians on a daily basis - just recently my son narrowly avoided hitting a jogger. The significant increase in traffic is going to make the entire route even more dangerous. Make no mistake, the lack of pavement and winding nature of the Lower Road make it haphazardly dangerous as it stands. Adding more traffic would be neglectful and would invite tragedy. There are no other ways to access this site - opening up either end of the road, were it even possible, will create a rat run through a residential area that absolutely is not suited to taking heavy traffic. It will be even more detrimental to human life.

Another objection to this development is that this small area is a great refuge for wildlife. I've lived in this area since 1956, and it was then very rural. Obviously, since then there have been many changes, but this small space still feels quite rural and has a great selection of wildflowers, pollinators, birds and animals. With housing development filling in every local green space, it seems important that at least a few small areas are left. As the vehicular access to this site is so difficult, would it not be a good idea to leave it as a small "green lung"?

The entire area to the south of the main road is relatively small, but it is part of a conservation area. Because of the safety issues with the main road and the access roads, and with it being a small, semi-rural spot in an area that is already being intensely developed, we feel that building on these fields would be a great mistake and dangerous to pedestrians, cyclists and other drivers.