

Dear Madam/Sir,

Speaking as a Bedhampton Resident for almost 50 years, and a member of the Bedhampton Volunteers for the past 19, the latter providing a great deal of contact with local Bedhampton residents, who are part of the 100's who contribute manually or by donations of plants, tools or monies, or provide praise and value our efforts in creating over 50 public gardens in the suburb, 9 three tier planters and purchase and maintain hanging baskets along the length of Bedhampton Road.

With these contributions and contacts on a daily basis I've yet to meet anyone who feels that despite all recognising a national housing shortage, all fail to comprehend the acceptance of planning permission already granted for the current housing estate being built in Lower Road, let alone this new proposal.

Or wonder how the area could still boast being in a Conservation Area, when blighted by such an increase in traffic without a proper and safe road providing access.

No doubt you are aware that the current building site manager, in his experience, finds it incredible that authorities provided the authorisation for that site, and he is joined by the constant lorry drivers that visit the there, also enjoying the same amount of amazement at such a decision, let alone the residents who chose to live there, believing they were safe in their naive option to choose to reside in a true Conservation Area.

And none have previously experienced the necessity for a workman on this current site, to be employed solely, for the next 2 years, to guide these lorries into the site from the point 200m from the site entrance, due to the dangerous nature of the bends and narrowness of the 4.8m wide road. Where even small vehicles have difficulty driving on their correct side of the road in either direction, and where there is a 50m stretch without a pavement. But the site management believes and considers quite rightly, that the road deserves this level of safeguarding, imposing a 10mph speed limit on such lorries when not driving behind the site employed guy, that walks the 200m in front of them. Safety, is considered by the site management, is for them to drive at walking pace for these 200m stretches, whilst other vehicles wrongly consider the legal 30mph speed limit as safe. Two years of heavy vehicles perhaps joined by lorries and vehicles for the proposed site, with or without the imposed restrictions on speed and safety.

The Bedhampton Volunteers have there third garden in Lower Road, the last one being regularly worked on by myself for the past 9 months, and have experienced proof of the high risks to motor vehicle drivers, cyclists and pedestrians and their dogs, on these blind narrow bends.

Other factors that will add to these risks are the large and regular vehicles using the industrial site of four businesses at the western end of Lower Road, which despite having restrictions imposed on vehicle usage, flouts those rules with impunity, as there is no supervision or consequences of breaching those rulings. Together with the vast increase in trend with greatly increased delivery van numbers, all combining to raise the risk of serious and unnecessary consequences, with this current site in progress, let alone a further one. Have any officials actually assessed the current amount of traffic using this road. All consider it a miracle that the traffic incidents already experienced, have not resulted in serious injury or worse, and with 40 years experience in the police service I most certainly concur with those sentiments.

This proposed site has parking spaces equalling the number of bedrooms. With the increase on children not moving out of the parents household, and there respective cars needing to park, they will certainly seek to park in Lower Road itself, which is already over saturated with residents parked cars, residents invariably already unable to park outside their own homes, with so many established terraced houses present without driveways, resulting in large vehicles navigating with difficulty and long pauses, let alone larger commercial ones. One thinks of potential delays created for emergency vehicles, having regularly witnessed large vehicles held up by parking, even with vehicles much smaller than the dustcart.

To summarise, everyone, even those not directly affected by the proposal, cannot believe this complete lack of logic in entertaining this proposal, and everyone in a democracy should be heard and not simply paid lip service to, and the prospect of gaining further funds from rates, and awaiting yet further failed promises of SIL monies, and with no repercussions.

The current development have erected a £60k fence around this site, and now claim that this will impact the SIL monies previously promised in the negotiations to gain the permission for the site development.

The question for many is that other areas in our borough nominated for development, that do not have an adverse impact on society, are not being realised, bereft of clarity and explanation. Hardly sound government, or an example of actually listening to public opinion.