

Further to the planning application lodged by Bargate Homes, reference number APP/21/01071, I wish to raise the strongest objection and request that Havant Borough Council rejects this application on the following grounds:

1. The current government, in a “U-turn” on previous policy, has announced recently that there should be no further development of housing on “green field sites”. This proposed development, comprising of 43 houses, would be sited on land used up to and including this year, for agricultural purposes. This alone should lead to immediate refusal of planning consent.
2. The development would be accessed via Lower Road, a metalled road which is narrower than the width of two vehicles in places, and which has no pavement, nor the possibility of creating one due to the proximity of the gardens of the existing properties to the edge of the road. I have lived in Bedhampton for over 26 years and use Lower Road daily for walking my dog and recreational running. I have to take evasive action on most days, by stepping onto driveways or gardens, in order to avoid oncoming vehicles due to the lack of a pavement. The situation is currently dangerous but with additional houses, it is potentially lethal.
3. I have counted the number of cars, parked on both driveways and in the road, over several weeks during the past 6 months whilst walking or running along Lower Road. The average daily count was 56 vehicles. The current planning permission, granted on appeal against the wishes of the Havant Borough Council and the overwhelming majority of Bedhampton residents, is for 50 additional dwellings. Based on the conservative estimate of 2 cars per household, and using the number of allocated parking spaces per home on the developer’s site plan as a guide, this would treble the number of vehicles using this narrow, twisting road at a stroke. To add another 43 homes would, potentially, increase the number nearly five-fold above the current level. This is madness and unsustainable for the existing residents and those accessing the road on a regular basis.
4. The existing planning consent for 50 homes of mixed size and stock as proposed, would house, on average around 150 people. 43 extra houses would, in the same proportion, add a further 130 extra to the total. This high population density would dwarf the number of existing residents and exacerbate the already dire strain placed on the local emergency services. The local acute hospital, The Queen Alexandra Hospital at Cosham, struggles on a daily basis to meet waiting times in its Emergency Department. The huge housing development at Forty Acres less than a mile away will see 325 homes built, once again on a green field site. This will increase the local population by further 1000+ people, placing yet greater pressure on an already overstretched infrastructure. To add further dwellings to this total is preposterous.

I sincerely hope that Havant Borough Council will reject this planning application, proposed by an opportunistic developer, unconcerned about its effect on the local environment, despite the glossy brochures it has produced in its support. Bargate Homes have been encouraged by their recent success in obtaining misguided planning consent on appeal, and are attempting to seize the opportunity to maximise profit over the needs and wishes of the local residents.