

I'm including my objection to the 50 houses that Bargate requested permission for. Bargate's application was soundly rejected THREE TIMES by Havant Borough Council only for Bargate to appeal to London who said, without batting an eyelid, yeah why not!!!

OF COURSE I don't want loads more houses along the road. I object now for the same reasons I objected last time.

What's more I predict a serious injury or fatality through this process due to the dangerous corner all road users MUST use. I hope you think about that before approving this application.



Date: Tuesday, 4 June 2019 at 23:28

To: <planning.development@havant.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to Lower Road, Old Bedhampton development

My family is resident in [REDACTED] and we object strongly to the proposed development of 50 houses in Lower Road.

Old Bedhampton is a charming and quiet area tucked away below the hustle and bustle of Bedhampton and Havant. There's a stream running through it, a church, a recreation field – all things that are calm and quite old-fashioned and traditional actually. The residents are mostly elderly and we are in a Police No Cold Calling Area and also a Conservation area. And, despite being set between the A27 and A3, it feels just like being in the country.

The road down from Brookside to Lower Road, where the new development is planned is narrow and has three sharp bends. These are very dangerous corners, each with their own perils. The corner at the bottom of Brookside has no double yellow lines to stop people parking and so there are often near collisions as people try to navigate parked cars on that blind corner, made even more narrow by the parked cars. The next corner, outside The Elms, is probably the most dangerous and I personally would testify that 8 times out of 10, when I'm travelling round that corner, oncoming traffic – cars, bicycles, pedestrians - are in danger of collision. I have seen a small boy knocked off his bike and an elderly lady walking in the road causing the driver to slam on the brakes, both only very recently. The painter that recently worked for months on The Elms would testify that he constantly saw near-collisions along this road and I strongly recommend the Council speak with him.

In the view of ALL residents, this road cannot tolerate the additional traffic – potentially 3 cars per new house – that the new development will bring. There have been countless unreported incidents on these corners. There are no mirrors, no road markings, no pathways. Recently the Council has done an appalling job of putting a yellow line at the edges of the road but no central lines, which is what the road so desperately needs to keep traffic on it's right side. I believe this is a conscious decision made by the Council because, by putting a line down the centre of the road, it highlights just how very narrow it is. Indeed I spoke to the workmen who painted the road (exceedingly badly) and he confirmed they had been told categorically NOT to paint central lines.

Additional housing would completely change the feel of Old Bedhampton. There are few enough charming places left around Havant/Bedhampton without spoiling this gem. A new commercial site just up at the top of Havant, on the opposite side of the A3, would be a perfect location for a large residential site. It would have access to a good road network without endangering lives – my point is

there are many, many better places. 50 houses is not going to make any difference whatsoever to the supposed dire need for additional housing (which I don't believe, by the way) but the damage it will do to Old Bedhampton can never be undone.

This seems to be all about Councils making money and builders making money – even the talk of building creating jobs is exaggerated because of low construction wages. Again, builders making money. Councils giving permission for people to build on every tiny piece of land, regardless of the impact.

I believe planners have a duty to look forward – and I certainly accept some development is good, essential and beneficial - but also to look backwards and preserve our heritage. I see no signs of that happening anywhere in our area. Bedhampton is a gem and should remain that way. I think you only have to look along Southsea seafront to see the damage and wrong decisions planners have made over the years. I think Havant Council should, for once, listen to residents – who should have a voice, do have rights and love Old Bedhampton – and make the right decision. Better still, before any decision is made, walk down Old Bedhampton and see what I mean. It's all very well to make decisions based on a map but go and have a look, walk around, drive the perilous corners but feel the history. See the families wandering along the stream, the children paddling, the picnics beside the water. A beautiful haven.

I was told – and I hope this is true – that Lower Road is as deep as it is, set lower than all the houses on one side, because it was ground away by coaches driving for hundreds of years along what was the main trunk road along the south coast. I do hope that's true. And that's heritage. And should be preserved. We're in a conservation area for a good reason. So don't be selfish – conserve it. For once, do the right thing. Please.

Regards

