

I am writing on behalf of Havant Civic Society to object to this application.

Southmere Field currently forms a strategic gap between the existing development to the north and the conservation area of Mill Lane to the south. Along with the fields to the east of the A3023, Southmere helps to define Langstone village as a distinct entity. Development on this field would be contrary to Havant Borough Council's Planning Policy CS11 and we would urge that it is not allowed.

Furthermore, there is an existing covenant on the field dating from 1980. Havant Borough Council has previously acknowledged the binding nature of this covenant and should not renege on it, to allow this development.

The field is an important site for wildlife, not only as a high tide roost for Curlew, a Red list species but for other significant species including Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. This summer, a pair of Barn Owls have been nesting in the belt of trees that separates the field from Southmoor and Southmere field will have been a source of food for them.

Inevitably too, the proposed development will generate additional traffic on the A3023, which is already an overly busy road, which regularly comes to a standstill, making it extremely difficult for emergency vehicles to get on and off Hayling Island.

For all these reasons, we believe that this application must be turned down.