



nature's voice

Heather Lealan
Havant Borough Council

By Email only: planning.development@havant.gov.uk

1 November 2012

Dear Ms Lealan

Ref: APP/12/00966
Location: Land North of Goldring Close and My Lords Lane, East of St Margarets Road and South of Beech Grove and Hawthorne Grove, Hayling Island
Description: Outline application for 131No. open market and affordable dwellings comprising 10No. 1 bed flats, 4No. 2 bed flats, 48No. 2 bed houses, 49No. 3 bed houses, 20No. 4 bed houses; public open space; car parking; new vehicular access from Beech Grove/Hawthorn Grove including demolition of 1 Hawthorne Grove; new pedestrian and cycle access from St Margarets Road including demolition of 23 St Margarets Road

The RSPB **OBJECTS** to the above application, which has been brought to our attention.

As you will know, the RSPB objected to the proposed allocation of the application site (UE16) in the Havant Site Allocations consultation, due to potential impacts on the Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar. These concerns remain.

The application site lies within approximately 210m (straight line distance) of the SPA/Ramsar site, affording new residents direct access to sensitive areas for feeding and roosting birds within the intertidal areas. The application site itself and surrounding land to the east and north have also been identified in the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (2010) as holding "uncertain" importance for wintering waders. Recent records further indicate significant use of the fields to the east of the application site by feeding brent geese (confirmed by surveys carried out by the applicant). These areas and the sensitive wildlife they support are at clear risk of direct and indirect impacts from the proposed application.

We note and support the concerns raised by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy in respect of potential impacts on the SPA and its network of supporting sites through increased recreational pressure as a result of the proposed development, and the inadequacy of the proposed mitigation to address these serious potential impacts. We further support the Conservancy's comments regarding the prematurity of the application in light of both the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project, and additionally in light of the current stage of the Council's Site Allocations Plan.

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We consider that, given these concerns, the application should be refused.

I hope that these comments are helpful in your determination of this application.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Carrie Temple.

Carrie Temple
Senior Conservation Officer