

Proposal to build houses on land located off Westwood Close and adjoining the boundaries and gardens of houses in Westbourne Avenue. CAPPE 18/00672

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a resident of Emsworth I very much object to the proposal to build houses on this very much loved and used public right of way. This is an area of land that has been enjoyed by many over the years as a place for enjoyment in an area of peacefulness in what is already an increasingly busy part of Emsworth. The importance of peoples wellbeing is not something that should be ignored. With the development of houses the essentially rural nature of this land would be spoilt and the footpath currently forming part of the Sussex Border Path would be assigned into an area increasingly liable to flooding. As a field that in the past has been consistently rejected as a potential site for building houses because of concerns over flooding it is very difficult to understand how this situation can have changed with the repeated warnings of global warming and the effects that this is likely to cause.

It is seen from the plans that have been submitted that vast areas of trees and shrubs will need to be removed and the habitat for the various species that occupy this land will therefore be very much affected. A recent study has shown there to be four different species of Bats and it is known that the endangered Vole exists in the river Ems running alongside this site. The dangers of pollution will undoubtedly be increased as a result of any development, an unnecessary risk in the view of those that value our environment.

One of a number of other objections is the use of Westwood Close as a means of access. This is currently a small cul-de-sac with obvious access difficulties already identified by many large vehicles having to reverse into the road, including the Local Authority waste disposal vehicles. For the residents of Westwood Close, 80% of which are retired persons, the increase in noise during any building project is going to be very challenging. There will be a much increased flow of traffic and with the other major development off New Brighton Road an unnecessary further increase of traffic congestion in and around the north part of Emsworth. Even the Planning Advisor of the prospective Developers when asked how he would feel if he lived in Westwood Close replied that "He would be very concerned".

There are so many reasons to object to this development and it is noted that there were 154 listed in the recent draft Havant Plan. These are all valid reasons for not approving this planning application and why so many residents believe that this is land that should be protected as an Open Green Space. Once taken away it will be gone forever.

As an area of land that in the past has been declared as unsuitable by Havant Borough Council for building purposes it is difficult to see any justification for this view to have changed. As set out in the draft Havant Local Plan the rejection of this plan would not have any effect on the number of houses that are needed to be provided under the Plan.

AVANT BOROUGH
COUNCIL

15 AUG 2018

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