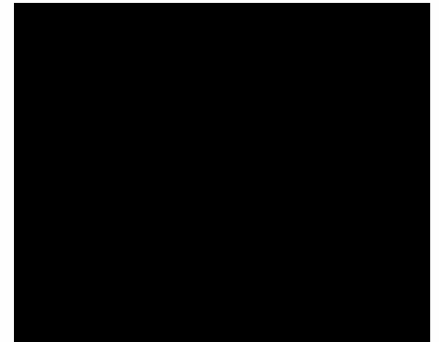
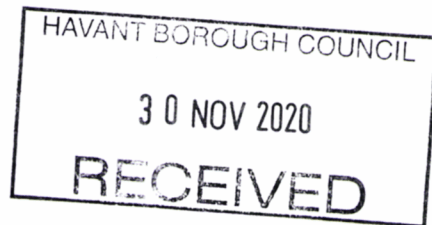




Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing to you today reference the proposed housing development site on Lower Road in Old Bedhampton primarily on reasons of safety. We have lived in the village for just over a year and during that time we regularly walk our three young children to pre-school, school and Bidbury park.

As you may be aware there are several blind bends en-route out of Lower Road, some of which coincide with lack of pavement. To this end, we have witnessed several close incidents at this location and feel that a proposed development of 50 houses, and its associated increase in traffic of potentially 100 cars, cannot safely be supported by the current infrastructure. At a time when the school and pre-school is encouraging us to walk with our children, we feel the added traffic would make this too dangerous.

To demonstrate the point we have taken a camera with us during one week and have taken some photographs of typical situations that occur year round. We also have video footage but understand it's not possible to send, so have included screen shots instead.

Firstly, on the junction of Lower Road, Brookside Road and Bidbury Lane. Coming from Lower Road heading out of Bedhampton up Brookside Road, the corner is blind and visibility is difficult. There are frequently parked cars on the east side of the road. This forces cars travelling down Brookside Road to pass the cars on the wrong side of the road approaching a blind bend. Furthermore, with regards to pedestrians travelling from Lower Road to Bidbury Park, due to the availability of pavement they are forced to cross at a diagonal on a blind bend. See photos below.

*Cars parked on Brookside Road forcing a dangerous overtake and secondly a car overtaking as we come around the blind bend:*



Secondly, the bend on Lower Road outside of the Elms. This is another blind bend and again has issues related to parking. However, this is compounded by the fact that there is no footpath on either side of the road forcing pedestrians to walk on the road on a blind bend. On several occasions we have been overtaken whilst walking with our children at this point. If a vehicle were to come around this bend at the same time, at best there would be a crash, but more frightening is the prospect of the overtaking car swerving to avoid a crash and driving into the pedestrians. See photos below.



Another recent example of the danger presented by these two blind bends happened when we were heading away from Lower Road past The Elms recently. An elderly gentleman on a mobility scooter was travelling on the wrong side of the road at the blind bend returning to The Elms. We presume he was on the road because he couldn't access the pavement at the junction with Bidbury Lane.

It's also worth noting that cyclists regularly use the Lower Road cut through to avoid the busy main roads, leaving the cycle path at the end of Lower Road (near the Rusty Cutter roundabout) and travelling through Bidbury. See photo below.



Our primary concern with this proposed development centres around the pure number of houses being planned and the huge impact on road safety that will have. The proposed number of houses will likely double the traffic and pressure on that single access point for all. Unless an alternative access route is found, we cannot see, based on the grounds of safety, how this proposal could be approved. This is quite apart from the additional danger that any construction traffic would add for a prolonged period of time.

We would also like to highlight our concern that the proposed development appears to leave half the field unused and very likely a future target for further development if this particular housing plan went ahead. This would place even more pressure on the local infrastructure and result in more upheaval for the residents.

In addition to our safety concerns, we believe that a substantial housing estate would very much damage the current village feel and environment, particularly since Old Bedhampton is a place of historical significance with a conservation area very close by.

We would encourage Havant Planning Authorities to spend a full day outside The Elms to witness the potential danger here. We fully appreciate that the priority for housing is important but that cannot be taken over the priority of safety.

Yours faithfully,

