

Mrs D Hayward
Planning Service
Havant Borough Council
Public services Plaza
Civic Centre Rd
Havant
Hants
PO9 2AX



9th August 2018

Ref: APP/18/00672 proposed development by Hampshire Homes on fields behind Westbourne Ave.

Dear Mrs Hayward

We are writing regarding the proposed development of the above area. As long term residents of Westbourne Avenue we would strenuously oppose this development for several reasons.

- Firstly, when the original development for the Westbourne Avenue extension (taking in Westwood close and Elderfield close) was never designed to accommodate an extra 200 traffic movements each day. The roads are already a lot busier than they have ever been due to families having more cars per household. Many people have taken to parking on the roadside and this often pushes you on to the wrong side of the road. This extra strain will make things unbearable and DANGEROUS.
- We would not class this site as brown belt infill? in fact it is more than just a green belt site!! It is pretty much land locked with the exception of a poor attempt to make a quiet cul de sac a through road to a new development. There is one entrance to this field that runs along the Ems and is on an already dangerous corner of the village. I would imagine that this is why it has not been proposed and frankly the only alternative is not acceptable. This site is already on the edge of a known flood plain that frequently gets water logged and occasionally floods. The addition of many tons of concrete foundations would no doubt alter the way this flood plain soaks away and cause potential problems elsewhere? Has an independent Environmental impact study been conducted? If not, then this should be arranged by the council with agreement of the local residents as to who conducts it.
- HBC Objected a planning application on this site in 2013 on the grounds of risk of flooding, nothing has changed since the last decision.
- There would be a great risk of polluting the River Ems, which is home to many species including water voles and salmon.
- During the build process we will have to endure many months if not years of disruption caused by site traffic. Not acceptable for a single access site in a residential area known and loved for its peace and quiet.

- I believe the site would use SUDS for its drainage? In the winter the water table is already only 40cm below the road surface, where would the water go? If the development goes ahead despite concerns, the council would be liable for flood damage to existing properties in the area.
- Westbourne Avenue has always attracted premium market value due to the fact that it's a quiet residential area within easy reach of Westbourne village, with scenic walking routes. The general feeling is that this development will have a drastic effect on current house values, due to the addition of many more houses and car movements. Who will meet this shortfall in value? I would imagine that the residents of Westwood Close will suffer the most, but surely people's equity should be protected to a degree? We will certainly be seeking legal advice with the other residents to pursue this question.
- The site meets all the criteria to become a designated green space, which should be protected for the future generations to enjoy. HBC has already identified sufficient sites to meet housing targets locally, without needing to add a further site that does not meet so many criteria.
- This area is home to at least 17 species of wild animals and 27 species of nesting birds, not to mention bats and bees which are already endangered. This should also be considered in an environmental impact study and provision made for any species that might need to be re-homed by professionals. The area has several protected trees and hedgerows.
- Local amenities are always affected by new developments, which are numerous in the local area. Whilst we all appreciate why we need more housing, we do not see much evidence of an increase in schools, doctors surgeries etc. What is being proposed by the council to increase these amenities? The development that is underway at the end of South Leigh Rd will no doubt create hundreds of new houses and residents, traffic etc. I haven't read anywhere about the provision for new schools or doctors surgeries etc.

We would ask that the points raised in this letter are tabled at the next planning meeting and that we are kept informed of any new decisions regarding this development.

