

I strongly object to the Planning Application APP/19/00427 for the development of 50 dwellings south of Lower Road.

I have reviewed the amended plans (ref. Havant Council notification of 7th October 2019) but it is clear that as previously, what little benefit, if any, exists to this development, it is greatly outweighed by the harm it would cause. In particular, the recently expanded Conservation Area of Old Bedhampton will have its character and setting, including Narrow Marsh Lane, irreparably damaged if this development which will substantially increase traffic through the Conservation Area is allowed to proceed. The amendments do not address my previously stated objections or points raised by many other residents of the wider Havant community.

This application will be a major development impacting the setting, safety and peacefulness of a historic village and is too important to be decided in isolation. I request that the question of how this good agricultural land in a unique historic setting best serves the Borough is discussed fully and openly at the Examination in Public of the Draft Local Plan 2036, only a few months away, before coming to a decision on this planning application which will have an impact for generations to come.

HBC is duty bound to assess the balance of harm done to the historic, attractive area of public amenity of the Old Bedhampton village against the claimed benefit of this development. There has been a strong public response raising many issues against this development already submitted to the consultation on the Draft Local Plan 2036. These issues are still there and must be addressed.

This development of 50 homes must be assessed in the light of all the proposed developments close by, contained in the Draft Local Plan 2036: Forty Acres (320 dwellings – now approved), Campdown (560), Littlepark House (50) and others. The cumulative growth in the whole residential area will put additional strains on the local infrastructure (traffic, school places, GP surgeries etc) which are not taken into account in this Planning Application.

Most of the concerns from people in the area who know Old Bedhampton village relate to access via the blind bends in Lower Road. The developer's Traffic Assessment has been challenged with an alternative estimate submitted of instances where two vehicles and pedestrians meet along the section of Lower Road between two blind bends with no pavement. This estimate is a much closer fit to the experience of majority of us residents, of regular incidents of near-misses with oncoming vehicles, groups of cyclists and pedestrians on the narrow road with no pavement. The road is not 'safe' just because there has not (yet) been a serious accident. An increase of traffic due to nearly doubling the number homes along the only access road to the Lower Road / Lodge Road cul-de-sac will make this route more unsafe for walkers and cyclists, deterring children, parents and older people from using these sustainable and healthy forms of getting around. HBC cannot on one hand be planning a national cycle route and a possible 'safe walking/cycle route' for school children from the Forty Acres development along Lower Road whilst nearly doubling the traffic at peak times along the same narrow road.

There has been an accumulated increase in traffic both within the Old Bedhampton narrow lanes and along the main routes to Havant and the A27 / A3(M). Queues at peak times along the main routes to and from Havant and the Rusty Cutter roundabout are already becoming a regular issue and will become greater as other housing developments are delivered. This development feeds on to Bedhampton Road at the already busy junction with Portsdown Hill Road.

Reference to the important Grade II* listed building, The Elms, on one of the blind bends on Lower Road is missing from the application. It is a historic, prominent building, adding to the character of the village. The house is occupied by active older residents and the Waterloo Room is valued and

used by the community for much needed local events. Safe access to this building by all is essential but will be compromised by the increase in traffic on the blind bend outside its gates.

The Residential home between the two blind bends on Lower Road needs safe access for ambulances, staff and visitors. Its residents, sometimes being pushed in wheelchairs along the road are less able to quickly avoid traffic where there is no pavement.

Provision of amenity value and green places for local people of all ages to access on foot and from the wider area to safely enjoy are limited. We are reliant on our representatives on the Council to decide on behalf of the Community, the best use of the land in Old Bedhampton:

Either as a popular green space and amenity for the Borough

or for a small number of houses which could be readily located elsewhere.

Please listen to our views that this gem must not be compromised now and for the future.

