

19.8.2018.

Dear Mrs D Haywood

Re APP/18/00672 Land off Westwood Close, Emsworth

My wife and I wish to strongly object to this development, on the following grounds:

1. FLOODPLAIN - permission to build was refused as recently as 2013 on the grounds that this involved there was too great a risk of flooding –What's changed? I attended a public meeting recently where a representative of Hampshire Homes attempted to explain why a technical development suddenly made this a feasible project. I, like most present, found his reasoning far from reassuring, and would like to see a truly independent scientific review of its true feasibility. We live at the southern end of Westbourne Avenue, on the eastern side and our garden adjoins the area adjacent to the Ems. We are only too aware of how boggy this area becomes after a winter of above average rainfall -this development will make drainage worse, particularly as times of climate change are producing escalating incidents of extreme weather events –particularly periods of prolonged and abnormally high levels of rainfall. It does not make sense to choose a floodplain development on the basis of some questionable technical advice from a developer. We know the water table in winter is only 40cm below the surface, and the site uses a sustainable urban drainage system [SUDS] - which relies on holding rainwater beneath the roads before releasing it. There would be nowhere for this surplus water to go.
2. POLLUTING THE EMS - there is an increased risk of this, and the Ems is home to many wildlife species, including water voles and salmon
3. BATS – not a reference to this development but to the fact that there are 4 species of bat, two of which are endangered, and which feed above the hedgerows which would be removed. I often watch pipistrelles feeding in my garden
4. FOOTPATH running north/south through the development, is very popular with runners, dog walkers, ramblers, and young families. It is probably one of the most used paths in the county and contributes significantly to the quality of life for those living in the area. This site meets all the criteria to become a designated green space, which would protect it for the future enjoyment of the local community. This is what local councillors should be fighting for, not a dodgy development where they have already met their housing development target. Is the council being entirely open as to whether there are any inducements being offered to encourage them to take up this scheme? It is common practice to offer local improvements with any new building development, what are these in this particular case?
5. TRAFFIC- this is already bad, particularly in north Emsworth and especially in to and through Westbourne. This will add to an already bad situation. There is also no easy access to public transport
6. RELOCATION OF FOOTPATH – will put it next to the Ems which in winter is likely to make it unusable

Yours sincerely

