Comment on Development Planning application APP/26/00324 for the Southleigh site

Havant is a densely populated borough, but we recognise the need for more homes. Too many families and individuals are unable to find suitable housing, with nearly 2,000 families on the waiting list in Havant. Given our limited land supply, we accept the need to develop the Southleigh site for additional homes.

However, we are deeply concerned that infrastructure must be improved to manage the additional pressure on local resources. We have two main areas of concern.

Firstly, we have grave concerns that the current traffic assessment carried out by Bloor Homes is adequately reflecting the impact of the significant increase in traffic which this development will create. All three current access points to the main large southern part of the site are already overloaded with traffic.

- North Street Emsworth is very narrow in places with single vehicle passing in several places and queuing in busy periods.
- Southleigh Road at the Warblington level crossing already leads to significant queuing. We have conducted traffic counts in busy periods when there have been more than forty cars queuing in both directions. In busy periods the northbound queue reaches beyond the Green Pond Corner traffic lights causing gridlock. Additional traffic load will cause significant disruption
- The northbound route towards Horndean has recently had a chicane with single vehicle passing installed to slow down traffic leading up to the Whichers Gate roundabout. It is plainly not a route suitable for increased traffic.

We believe, therefore that it will be essential to build the Link Road from Bartons Road to join the A27 eastbound via the service station access road and connect directly to an enhanced Warbington Interchange bypassing Southleigh Road.

Our second concern is about the water and services supply to the development and the arrangements for wastewater disposal. We know that existing capacity is limited and are conscious that problems with wastewater occurred on a new development on Hayling Island.

So, at this stage of the planning process we ask the Planning Committee to ensure that adequate land is protected for a route travelling north – south through the site suitable for cars, lorries and buses. Such a route will need to be reasonably straight and of a suitable width.

We also ask that the Planning Committee look for clear reassurance that water supply and disposal will be adequate for any building that takes place.