Sevenoaks District Council

Council Offices

Argyle Road

Sevenoaks, Kent.

TN 13 1HG

6th November 2019

Dear Sir/Madam.

Re:- Fort Halstead Planning Application Reference 19/05000/HYB.

I am writing to make you aware of my total disapproval and concern myself and many villagers have of the over development of the Halstead area with particular worry about the density and all the extra traffic that will be generated.

Whilst I understand there is a need to build houses, I think this should be borne by all areas. At the moment we have an increase of 300 houses at Fort Halstead, now making a total of 750, a further development at Warren Court, Halstead, where it is anticipated a larger application will be put forward on adjacent land There are also other parcels of land in Halstead on the list for consideration, some of which have miraculously changed from Green Belt to Brown Field Sites just because there has been some use, but not the size of the footprint for proposed new development. This is without the proposal for the huge development of over 1000 houses at Broke Hill on Green Belt land. It seems that developers are determined to turn our lovely village into a town. We are being expected to absorb a disproportionate amount of building.

Whilst Fort Halstead is being considered a Brownfield Site promises were made by Politicians that they would respect the Green Belt, to separate towns and provide green spaces for present and future generations. This should be adhered to! It puts Politicians in a poor light when they say one thing and then do the opposite. It is wrong to consider building on the Green Belt in Halstead and Westerham and Swanley area. North Kent is being built up too much, the Government targets set are too high and are unrealistic considering the areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty that we do not want to see destroyed.

The main cause of concern about this proposal to develop Fort Halstead is the massive impact it will have on the area. There is another application on the North side of Halstead, Broke Hill now Known as Stonehouse Park, there is no way the infrastructure can cope with all this. Also it is not fair on the residents to change there whole way of life by swamping us with about 2000 new homes. We chose to live here because we like it as it is and surely some consideration should be given to our feelings. Another consideration is the pollution from all the extra traffic movements, it is anticipated that an increase in traffic movements by up to 4000 per day. Further compounding one of the 14 established Air Quality Management Areas, where the M 25 rises to meet the site conflicting with policy HE1.

I hope that due consideration will be given to the infrastructure for this area. This is a country village with narrow roads that will not be able to cope with the volume of traffic expected. Although there is a rail line it is hardly a “Transport Hub” as the developers choose to call it. It is a very busy line with many fast trains passing through, serving the Kent coast. It is running at full capacity and South East Trains have stated there is no room for more train paths on that line, nor can they turn more trains at the London terminals. No changes are visualised until 2045. If this development were to go ahead it would make travel conditions intolerable for passengers.

Another big concern is the provision of water. At times, during the year we are already experiencing supply problems with the introduction of hosepipe bans. In the event of the two large developments in Halstead, plus other building, would Thames Water be in a position to supply water to all these new developments? There have been two occasions over the last year when people living at Fort Halstead have had to live on bottled water because of breakdown in supplies.

There has been a petition “To restore nature on a massive scale to stop climate breakdown” it is due to be debated in Parliament on the 25th October. Broke Hill is an ideal site for this because many young people from the inner suburbs, like Woolwich, Tower Hamlets, Lewisham come to this area when carrying out their Duke of Edinburgh awards. It would be a sad loss to deny them and others this facility in future years.

When the Planning Consultation gets underway I hope that some of the contents of my letter will be taken into consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J A Brown,

15 Clarks Lane,

Halstead, Sevenoaks,

TN14 7DG