

Planning Comments

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 November 2019 00:04
To: Planning Comments
Subject: Fort Halstead development

Dear Sirs/Madams,

Re: Revised planning application for Fort Halstead, 750 houses Your Reference: 19/05000/HYB

I wish to protest in the strongest possible terms to the proposals for the development at a Fort Halstead.

The site is totally inappropriate in the setting, especially now that the entrance on Starhill Road is now to be included. That road is dangerous enough as it is, as it is regularly used by competitive and leisure cyclists.

But allowing such a density of housing in such a small concentration of land will completely destroy the character of the surrounding villages, namely Knockholt and Halstead. The infrastructure is completely inadequate to sustain such a big influx of residents, and the work required to alter that will result in such turmoil that it will blight the area, not to mention the permanent blight that will be left.

I question why this area is being subjected to two such huge developments: Fort Halstead and Broke Hill? Either on their own would overwhelm the small district, and needs to be scaled down.

The transport links are completely inadequate: the bus service is insufficient and the train station cannot sustain expansion because longer trains cannot stop at Knockholt station and the timetable cannot sustain extra trains.

So that would mean a vast increase of road traffic on clearly unsuitable roads, which cannot support two-way traffic in the villages at many pinchpoints at present. This would make life absolute misery for the local residents, not to mention the damage to property and potentially people likely to be caused. The council cannot keep the existing roads in good order; putting more traffic on them would be ridiculous.

My biggest concern, however, is the damage caused to the environment.

The National Planning Policy Framework on the Green Belt states:

- It should check against unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas
- Prevent neighbouring areas merging into one another
- Safeguard the countryside from encroachment.

None of these, especially points one and three, is observed by this plan. Fort Halstead is a historic site, and its development would lead to further loss of local history.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to reject this plan.

Yours sincerely

Sue Russell
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