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Sent: 14 April 2021 22:10
To: Planning Comments
Cc: laura.trott.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: 19/05000/HYB, Amended Application—proposed development of 635 houses at Fort Halstead

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For the attention of Ms. Claire Shearing

I am writing to you regarding the amended Fort Halstead development proposal.

There have been quite a few changes from the last proposal submitted, primarily the number of proposed houses wanted from 450 to 635. Also noted is the decrease in commercial development and is somewhat different to the initial employment driven scheme back in 2015.

As was initially highlighted by our local Knockholt Society back in 2015 the problem will be that the developers will look to expand on the residential development and decrease the commercial usage and this is exactly what has happened in this latest proposal. It may be a more profitable option for the developer but not one that best suits the local community. I feel that SDC have been somewhat duped into giving permission for 450 houses to now being asked for 635. The original plan with a balance for employment and residential dwellings is now extremely out of balance. With the decrease in commercial development the 1200 jobs can surely not be possible. I see that the hotel development plan has also been removed.

The roads in the surrounding area are not adequate for the proposed increase in traffic that 635 houses would bring. What especially worries me is the access point on to Star Hill. Weekends are horrendous with cyclists, weekdays are hugely busy with commuter traffic. There have been quite a few accidents over the last few years, even parked cars in our road have been hit several times. There is subsidence on the roads at Polhill, Star Hill is dangerous with the current volume of traffic. I believe that buses and emergency services should have access via Star Hill but no commercial or residential traffic should be allowed in and out of the Star Hill access point.

I feel that the Broke Hill development should also be referenced as this is a potentially huge site. Again if this goes ahead our village will be affected. Put both developments together and life would be intolerable and in no way the life we chose when moving to Knockholt for a village life.

I have only lived in the village for nine years but can already see an increase in the through traffic, cars, lorries and cyclists! A development of 635 houses would irreversibly change our village and those surrounding. The green belt should be protected and this development will surely destroy a large area of our local greenbelt. I strongly oppose the plan to increase the number of houses to 635 and the proposal to open up the Star Hill access point.

Kind Regards
Royston Abernethy
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