

Planning Comments

From: Doug Elish [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2019 14:43
To: Planning Comments
Subject: Application: 19/05000/HYB

Categories: Orange Category

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Sevenoaks Bicycle Users Group promotes active travel in the Sevenoaks District area.

We have reviewed the proposals for the development of the Fort Halstead site and as a general comment, we would implore the planners (from SDC to Kent Highways etc) to ensure that the development - if approved - prioritises the use of active travel (and public transport links) in order to minimise the use of motor vehicles (particularly private ones). This should apply to commuters, school students etc and to routes to amenities/facilities.

The site is not within easy walking distance of rail stations, with the nearest being Dunton Green and Knockholt (an estimated 2.0 - 2.8 miles away respectively - depending on route). Unless there is a good bus service and good, safe cycle paths, this will result in a significant increase in traffic in the area, putting more pressure on an already stretched road infrastructure.

We note that the developers have made mention of the development of cycle pathways (within the site) and some "strategic shared footway cycle paths". While this is commendable, the plan needs to go a lot further than this with the development of a comprehensive transport management plan (for the wider area) to ensure that active travel and public transport is prioritised (involving SDC, Kent Highways, schools and any other relevant bodies/organisations).

In terms of specifics, we would suggest:

- * Another "strategic shared footway cycle path" to the south, connecting to the lower part of Starhill Road - to facilitate access to Dunton Green Station.
- * Extending the on-highway cycle lanes on London Rd (A224) between the Shoreham Lane roundabout and the Polhill access junction (to be upgraded).
- * Upgrading appropriate PROW to be both foot and cycle paths and to integrate with relevant other roads/foot & cycle paths to promote active travel.

Kind regards,
Doug Elish
Sevenoaks Bicycle Users Group

39 St John's Road
Sevenoaks
TN13 3LT