

The Old Orchard,
Otford Lane
Halstead
TN14 7EE

4 November 2019

Sevenoaks District Planning Department,
Argyle Road,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL

REC'D - 7 NOV 2019

COMMUNITY & PLANNING SERVICES

Planning Application Fort Halstead Ref: 19/050000/HYB

I had hoped earlier objections would have seen this proposed destruction of part of the green belt laid to rest. The applicants are a bit like the EU commission; go on until you wear the opposition down.

Once development permission is granted the destruction begins. It is essential this location does not become an out of town eyesore on the top of the North Downs. My village of Halstead has seen a considerable increase in population growth and development with pocket handkerchiefs of back yards, over the last 50 years: much of it has evolved and constrained growth has not impacted in the way the proposed development of Fort Halstead will. It has no heart and will generate additional pollution of light and air.

Life has changed considerably over the years and going to work now often involves a car journey or public transport (limited and not always convenient) journey to a rail head. The roads in the area are not designed for new villages/mini towns: many have no pedestrian pavement or street lighting and can be plain dangerous, particularly for the young and old. This is in an area of outstanding natural beauty and gives pleasure to many from neighbouring high density areas in greater London. The area

is very popular with cyclists and provides a break from continuous urban sprawl, with its continuous pressure for "just a bit more every time"


The earlier consideration of 450 dwellings would have a huge impact on the area and raised all sorts of controversy, but the revised application is way beyond reasonable. The idea of live and work locally is no longer the way, however good it sounds. People no longer have a job for life and often stay put because of the high cost and tax (high stamp duty piled on by successive Chancellors) on moving closer to work.

Sevenoaks seems to be close to traffic saturation: the M25 is rapidly becoming a joke and at saturation point. Without adding capacity it will grind to a halt even without the various proposed developments in the Sevenoaks area. No longer is it safe to let young children walk along lanes and busy highways alone – so working parents resort to the car so they can also get to work. Are we trying to fill in the gaps of green belt within the M25? This becomes the logical extrapolation of all the schemes being considered.

I believe there are no proposals for expanding the infrastructure in the area BEFORE any further development takes place. Is the water supply adequate – I don't see many reservoirs being built or improved drainage to handle growth. The railway advises it is running at full capacity. It is hard to find doctors surgeries – I don't believe there is a local need for this sort of scheme.

I am not in favour of the application and consider it should be refused.

Yours faithfully


J/W Percival