

In view of the Coronavirus Pandemic, what we are learning from it and the need to change the way we treat our land I submit my views in relation to this planning application and similar applications.

We all need space; something that has been overlooked in this application. Too many houses, small plots, all too close to one another.

We need to be free of noise pollution; the more people and closer the housing, the greater the noise pollution from vehicles, people, music, animals, industry, electrical equipment, maintenance, etc.

We need green and open spaces, wild meadows, woodlands, footpaths, ponds and lakes; places to unwind, to enjoy nature and where wildlife can thrive. This need has been highlighted by the pandemic. During lockdown, the air was fresher, fragrances enhanced, the sky a deeper blue and without haze. Natural sounds could clearly be heard, with the reduction in traffic, aircraft and trains and with industrial units and building sites lying silent. It was good to walk in the countryside and take in the fresh air. In Halstead and Otford the skylarks and cuckoos could be heard, birds were more visible and insects, bees and butterflies were in abundance. It was like going back in time, before our world became so crowded and polluted. Polhill bank, bordering this site, is full of **protected** wild orchids or various species. How many of these are growing on the proposed development site above the bank?

We have a duty to prevent the pollution of our planet; taking more and more land for housing will only add to pollution and speed up global warming. We need to get the balance right to ensure that humans, plants and wildlife continue to exist and that we take care of the fragile ecology to prevent it from moving out of balance and threatening human existence.

We need 'affordable housing' but not as currently defined. We need smaller, cheaper houses, not partially owned by a third party, be that the builder or some other individual or company, who has control over it. We need to allow people the freedom to solely 'own' houses that they can afford with the aid of a mortgage on a 'freehold' basis with the land and house all being included.

We are now in a position where buildings are being freed up and left unoccupied due to companies going into administration and new smart ways of working from home or in much smaller office spaces. These buildings need to be occupied or redeveloped to address the business and housing needs and to prevent areas becoming run down, desolate and neglected inviting criminal activities.

We need to maintain the health of our nation and reduce the drain on our NHS, other medical services and social services. This means catering for the physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual well-being of everyone.

Key people responsible for health, housing, finance, business, transport, policing, security, leisure, entertainment, open spaces/woodland, places of worship, diversity, wildlife, pollution and the environment could work together to reduce the strain on services and act in the interest of the local community. Encouraging businesses to set up locally, including those growing produce, would reduce costs, travel, transport and pollution. Sevenoaks District Council could lead the way in light of what has so far been learned from the Coronavirus, becoming more efficient, effective and economically sound, creating a safer, healthier and more exciting place to live, work and socialise in. This would generate visitors, boosting the finances of the local economy.

Together it is possible to show care for the environment and its inhabitants. As we increase the quality of life, we reduce the need for many over stretched services and resource. This is the opportunity to provide a brighter more exciting place for future generations, setting an example for others to follow.

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