Richard Morris 56 Watercroft Road

SDC Head of Planning Halstead

Council Offices Sevenoaks

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28 October 2019

Dear Mr Morris

**Hybrid Planning Application:**

**Fort Halstead**

**Reference 19/05000/HYB**

My name is Alan Hanscombe and I have been a Halstead resident for over 25 years. I am writing to object to the above hybrid planning application and I set out my objections below:

* Increased scale of development (Planning Creep?): In addition to the Fort Halstead development, there is the proposed Broke Hill development of up to 850 homes, there are also other proposed developments within the Halstead Parish boundary. Altogether there is a proposal for a total of 1,958 new homes to be built within the Halstead Parish boundary. This equates to 15% of the target figure for the whole of the Sevenoaks district, which the Government has currently set at 13,500 homes.
* Services infrastructure: What impact will the Fort Halstead development of this magnitude have on the existing water supply, drains and sewers? In Halstead, with a current population of c:1,550, we already experience the blocking sewers caused by the flushing of non-degradable objects down toilets.
* Transport infrastructure: The current public transport infrastructure is insufficient to cater for this additional growth. Firstly, the nearest National Rail Station, Knockholt, is merely a country halt. In times of timetable challenges, Southeastern Trains reduce the number of trains stopping at Knockholt Station by at least 50% (as they did on Monday 21/10/19). In addition to this, and a major concern for the scale of the above hybrid planning application, Knockholt station has no step free access to platform two and has only a part time ticket office open during the weekday morning rush hour. Also, according to a public transport consultation with Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association, there is no capacity to run longer trains nor is there the capacity for an extra train path on this route and no capacity at Charing Cross or Cannon Street to turn it round.

The Arriva 402 bus no longer serves the Fort Halstead location and only operates in and to the south of Sevenoaks.

The increased road traffic movements from the proposed 1,958 new homes within the Halstead Parish boundary (let’s assume two cars per household minimum) on the local A and B roads, and on the narrow lanes surrounding Halstead village, signifies potentially, huge health, safety and environmental implications.

In conclusion, I hope that the Council’s decision in relation to this application reflects the current state of the supporting infrastructure.

Yours sincerely

Alan G Hanscombe