

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL

REC'D 18 NOV 2019

COMMUNITY & PLANNING SERVICES

New Stables Farm House, Rushmore Hill
Knockholt, Sevenoaks TN14 7NS

13/11/19

Planning Dept., Sevenoaks District Council

Argyle Road, Sevenoaks

Kent TN13 1HG

Re: Development of DSTL Fort Halstead, Crow Drive Halstead Sevenoaks Kent TN14 7BU

Your ref: 19/05000/HYB

As Knockholt residents we are writing to express our most strenuous opposition to the repeated applications to develop an expanded housing estate at Fort Halstead. We are very concerned that residents are again being asked to register their concerns about this latest development plan which is so similar to the last one. It seems that this is just a wearing down process to override local objections and to destroy precious habitat for profit.

The arguments we, and many other residents and local organisations put forward at the last consultation remain largely the same. We are now all the more aware of the emerging climate and environmental crisis in this country and beyond, with the mounting evidence of threats to ecosystems and our wildlife. In Kent the need to protect our Green Belt and other habitats and areas of outstanding natural beauty has become more and more urgent and such large developments in such close proximity (Fort Halstead and Broke Hill) will cause huge damage to the environment.

Other detrimental aspects of the Fort Halstead development include the lack of adequate roads, lack of transport systems (overloaded trains from Sevenoaks to London), lack of adequate public services (over-stretched hospitals, GP surgeries etc) and most importantly a lack of clear evidence that building expensive houses of the kind proposed is answering local or national need. By taking housebuilding out of local control and giving developers the upper hand in dictating what sort of housing can be built and where, we are giving away our ability to see providing housing as a local and social need and without causing considerable harm to the countryside. Any benefit to the local area is massively outweighed by the creation of even more traffic on our roads, the loss of our precious Green Belt, and wildlife environments, further strain on public services and little to no truly affordable property for rent or sale. The plan models for these expanding communities involve over-use of leasehold, expensive management committees, unadopted roads to extort even more revenue from those in a position to buy higher priced homes. There is no real analysis of need across adjoining boroughs e.g. Bromley, Orpington etc and no mention of council homes or social rented homes. Local people and future generations will be the losers.

Yours sincerely

Helen Fiorini and Steve Watts

