

Planning Dept.
Sevenoaks District Council
Council Offices
Argyle Road
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 1HG

Ref: 19/05000/HYB.

26th July 2020

Dear Sir, I have previously voiced my strong objection to the above planning application which is still relevant and I would like to add the following comments:

I am most concerned about the over development in the area and the impact this will have.

The government's National Planning Policy Framework regarding the Green Belt states that it should:

- Check against unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas
- Prevent neighbouring areas merging into one another
- Safeguard the countryside from encroachment.

This application fails to meet those criteria and it should be rejected.

I am particularly concerned with road safety, especially as the existing outlet to Star Hill Road is integral to this new amendment. I remind you that 'Condition 14' of the 2015 permission required that: 'before the development could proceed, we require details to show how the Star Hill access would be restricted and maintained for use only by buses, emergency vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians and horses'.

Your current excuse is that this is all a problem for Kent County Council. But as we all know, Star Hill Road:

- is badly maintained; has no footpaths; is narrow; has a series of completely blind bends; is much favoured by cycling clubs because of its hilly challenge; has been the scene of numerous accidents;
- is totally inadequate to cope with the potential 1,500+ new cars, as well as heavy goods vehicles/delivery vans likely to service the 635 homes;
- and if this access is allowed, it will turn Knockholt and surrounding villages into rat runs with all the dangers inherent.

The Star Hill Road exit is described as 'secondary' in this amendment, but no measures are in place to define that. Throughout Fort Halstead's operational history, even during peak employment years, this exit has always been restricted. It would be extremely dangerous to allow free flowing traffic to use this exit onto a derestricted road. Visibility is limited and traffic from the north is on the brow of a blind hill. Any proposed speed limits on Star Hill Road are unlikely to slow approaching traffic and will have no effect on the condition of this road, as described above.

I recall attending a public meeting at SDC offices when the Council were applauded from the public gallery for voting in favour of refusal to allow general traffic to use Star Hill Road entry/exit and I would expect that decision to be honoured.

Mr P Lambillion

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