Beechcroft,

 Shoreham Lane

 Halstead

 Sevenoaks

 Kent TN14 7BY

 20th October 2019

**REF: 19/05000/HYB**

Dear Sirs

We write in regard to the above planning application on the site of Fort Halsted.

Myself and my husband are residents in Halstead, which currently has around 750 dwellings. The proposed development on Fort Halstead would double this and with the other planned development on Broke Hill, the village would no longer be a village. This will have an adverse effect on the local area (Green Belt) and the current infrastructure that is in place, which is not sufficient to cope with the extra number of housing.

The following are factors that need to be taken in to account before this application goes any further.

1. The roads around Halstead village are country lanes and are not equipped for the amount of traffic the above number of dwellings will introduce. Increased traffic on narrow lanes in and around the existing community will have potential safety impacts. Apparently impact studies have been conducted without reference to the increased volumes from other proposed developments e.g. Broke Hill and these two sites are within 1.5 miles of each other
2. The loss of green belt and the loss of the function it performs. The increased likelihood of development within a substantial radius of the site if this proposal is agreed
3. Noise disturbance – Residential 24/7, commercial activity 24/7 and sporting facilities in the evening and weekends. Local residents choose to live in Halstead because they want peace and quiet! There will be increased traffic which will have an ecological impact.
4. Illumination / light pollution of a dark environment, commercial unit flood lighting for security, street lighting in a high-density housing proposal, sports facility floodlights, dusk to dawn lighting on vehicles accessing the development, this will also have an ecological impact.
5. Infrastructure hasn’t been considered. This is a small village and that’s the way it should remain. This proposal would increase the village by over 100%.
6. There are currently ‘NO’ doctor’s in Halstead, so residents have to register at other doctors in the local area, which are already over-subscribed. There is no mention of any new Doctors in the proposal, so this would just increase the existing problem.
7. This will impact on access and views disrupted from footpaths on and near the site, Duke of Edinburgh programme / cyclists are very active on and around the site which encourages youth engagement with nature and associated health benefits, physical and mental are gained from countryside activity.
8. This will not match up with local populations demographics or its needs, targeting commuters. There is currently one train every 30 minutes from Knockholt Station, as it is seen as a ‘Satellite Station, so can’t be seen to be a ‘good commuter’ line!
9. Power – Gas / Electricity – is the power supply robust enough? – we currently have a lot of power cuts; therefore, the extra housing would put a lot more pressure on the exiting supply.
10. IT connectivity and speed, economic impact – is it robust enough?
11. The key factor for Fort Halstead is the ‘WATER’ – there are already major issues with the water supply to the existing houses in Fort Halstead. Residents are regularly without water due to issues with the water supply coming through the DSTL. The residents have been advised the water pipes are too old to have any work done on them, therefore individual meters can’t be installed. Thames Water are not responsible for the water and take no responsibility. This needs to be resolved prior to any further building applications being granted. SDC are fully aware of this situation and need to take action.
12. Crow Drive is a small access road and some of the upkeep of this road is paid for by the residents in the existing houses in Fort Halstead. The damage to this road during building and then from the large amount of traffic this application would generate would lead to further issues in Crow Drive. This road would need to be fully adopted by the council prior to any further building applications being approved.

This development and the increase in housing, people, light, noise, air pollution, traffic affecting Halstead and the wider areas plus sports facilities that are of little interest to the vast majority of residents. This continuation of degradation of our Green Belt must stop.

Please ensure the above points / objections are recorded by SDC prior to any approvals of this proposal.

Regards

Amanda and Albert Akintibubo