

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 January 2022 09:34
To: DC Admin Planning
Subject: Objection to planning application 21/02144/FUL

Categories: Comments

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please could you post my objection on the application above as it exceeds 2000 words.

These are my objections to the planning application with Tendring District Council by Hutchison's Ports to effectively attempt to turn low lying farm land into mudflats, in order to re-home wading birds that will be displaced in the event of a new deep water port being built at Bathside, Harwich. Old EU regulations make it mandatory for a replacement site to be found for them before they will be given planning permission for the new port. This all sounds lovely and kind to the environment at first sight but why destroy an existing successful wildlife environment to replace it with a theoretical different man made one. Which brings me to my objections:

- the plan was developed 20 years ago, the beach configuration, currents and ecology are inevitably different now. There is absolutely no guarantee that the plan will work and if it does it will take years for the area to settle down to established mud flats. There is also no saying that the birds will settle here, they will more likely just move down the estuary they are currently occupying to the mudflats upstream.
- when the plan was developed there was a population of 30 seals in the area, it is now 500. They use the spit off Irlam's (or Earham's) beach regularly and pup there. When the sea wall is breached the currents will change and it is entirely possible that the spit will be washed away and in any case taking away 100,000 metric tonnes of topsoil by barge is bound to disturb them.
- I took a photo of a beautiful moth I found on a walk to the beach. It turns out it is a very rare Fishers Estuarian Moth, which only lives in Essex and 70% of its population live on the grassy banks of the existing bunds. They plan to dig up and move all their food plants to the new sea walls. I am not at all convinced that will be a success with dumper trucks and diggers churning the land up. The population is so small that I doubt they will survive the disruption.
- One of the few positive outcomes of covid is that the public have come to enjoy walking as a pastime again. One of the few walks in Little Oakley is out to the beach. Why should we be denied access to exercise, sea air, magnificent views and the chance to see rare wildlife just to increase profits for a multinational corporation.

I look forward to reading my objection on the TDC website as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs Kim Lane
Resident of Little Oakley