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Agenda Item 5(a)

Deputation to planning committee 23rd of February

I am very pleased to see the officers' recommendation of refusal of this application and would like to further draw members attention to the following points.

Lower Road. A former Roman sunken lane. There is no pavement and no means of heavy lorries passing each other - we know the developers have employed a banksman but what happens when that stops. Delivery vans will take over and what happens when a young child on a bike or a mother with a pushchair goes round the blind bends—I hate to think. In my view the risk is already too high with the existing development, but further houses, even if the drainage problem is fixed, will only put more and more people (adults and children) at risk of a life changing accident or even death.

I would also like to draw members attention to some recent studies on the effect of noise levels on children and young people. As recently as June 2022 the Guardian published a study that found road traffic noise significantly slows the development of crucial memory and attention skills in primary school children. Noise is the second most damaging environmental factor to health after air pollution. For example we already know that noise increases heart attacks and diabetes in adults. The UN said last February that urban noise pollution was growing into a global public health menace leading to 12,000 early deaths in the EU alone. Having been on site many times and noted that the noise from nearby roads is louder than any other development site I have seen in Havant, never mind just Bedhampton. I feel this should be taken into consideration as looking at the houses I should imagine it will be mostly families with young children moving in. Do we want them to begin life at such a disadvantage?

We do need more homes - not houses but homes. Homes for people to grow up in and if this is not where you would like your grandchildren to grow up or your older relatives to retire to then we should once again reject this not just because of the drainage but from other all other factors about this site. What we want in our community is healthy homes for healthy families.

Thank you for listening.

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