

APPENDIX A

I am speaking today both as a local Emsworth councilor and also as a local resident who has lived for over 20 years on the Havant Road - just to the east of Selangor Avenue.

The impact on the Emsworth area as a result of this development will be from losing the gap between Emsworth and havant and the detrimental effect this will have on the surrounding area. It will create one long urban sprawl and the last remaining open space north of the A259 or Havant Road will be gone resulting in a loss of identity for existing communities.

The new housing statement which effectively allocated over 2,000 new homes to the Emsworth/Denvilles gap north of A27 and is still a work in progress for this adjoining area, and should have postponed any development on this particular "piecemeal site" in order to allow a more integrated solution particularly with regards to the proposed 'trunk road' junction from the A27 at Emsworth..

This masterplan for infrastructure of the whole strategic area or SG3 may have an impact on the site we are considering this evening and This is acknowledged by the case officer in the report under section 5 "Co-ordination of development" and I quote –

"it should be noted that the land earmarked as a landscape buffer for this scheme may be affected by the proposal for a new junction and associated slip road."

Are we therefore in danger of a Premature development of this site??

Like the majority of residents who have objected to this development – I am a well qualified local road user who knows the many different characteristics of the Havant road

While I could be regarded or described as an 'amateur traffic watcher' - I believe that I have observed the Havant Road in all conditions both from a traffic perspective and also from weather conditions - so deserted under snow or at a standstill when we had extensive flooding. Everyday there are a number of sirens heard from the emergency services and quite frequently the road is at a standstill due to an accident on the M27/A3 network to Portsmouth and Chichester.

Most days – the traffic is heavily congested for over an hour at morning rush hour and over an hour at the evening rush hour. The traffic can be at a stand still from the roundabout by the M27 all the way into Emsworth. It is difficult to imagine for us 'locals ' the impact of traffic lights on an already congested road. Could it be possible that traffic from the Havant Road could in the future tail back in a queue to meet with the traffic from the South Leigh Road traffic lights to the west and then cause congestion up the slip roads to the fast moving traffic on the A27?

While I acknowledge the safety aspect of both the traffic lights and pedestrian crossing has been an essential part of the planning for the new junction – they may well cause different hazards within the traffic network both on the Havant Road and Selangor Avenue.

The calculations for the suitability of the new junction and traffic lights for the new development was carried out by Hampshire County Council using a computerized 'traffic model' from an office in Winchester so it appears no real count was done actually on site observing levels of traffic at different times of the day. HCC recently wrote to Havant Borough Council stating that a 'industry standard modeling software' had been used to review the operation of the signal junction with reference to "the design manual for roads and bridges". In theory – the effectiveness of the traffic signals has been assessed to 2026 and shows that there will be sufficient capacity on the Havant Road to allow the junction to clear in a single cycle with queues only reaching back 100metres and while this may be possible for some of the time – the congestion this proposed junction could cause at strategic times of the day is incalculable. Additional delay will obviously be experienced along the A259 corridor with the computerised model calculating the average delay of under ¼ minute per vehicle at peak times but doesn't say at what distance! Once this development has been built it will be too late to correct the situation and I would urge the traffic plan as a whole to be re-visited and additional access points to the site to be considered

Also –

While it is not a design check - The report for the road safety audit carried out by GM Traffic consultants consisted of a desktop study and a site visit on Monday 24 April 2017 at 10.30 in the morning where traffic was moderate and weather dry. How can this be a true and accurate interpretation of traffic on such a busy road?

There are 353 parking spaces planned for this development so it would seem safe to assume that there will be 353 cars accessing and leaving the site, most will be turning right across the traffic on the Havant Road in the morning to use the A27m or go into Havant for work. Some will be turning left to access Selangor Avenue to drop children to school which increases the volume of traffic in a quiet residential road. The safety aspects of this will be covered in another deputation shortly.

While The pedestrian traffic lights will provide a safe crossing for many people trying to cross the A259, and may allow some vehicles to leave/join the nearby roads such as Nore Farm Avenue the combination of the 2 sets of light will slow the flow of traffic down causing an even bigger build-up to the volume of the A259 in general.

I would like to share some of the residents' objections from the Council's website so that they too can have a voice and be heard

Here is An objection from Perry Dodgeson a local resident from Selangor Avenue who also works for the Fire Service based in Emsworth.

“I am amazed at the lack of concern for the immense increase in weight of traffic if this development proceeds. Minor road works on The Havant road and North Street in recent months have created daily traffic jams backing onto The A27 and into Havant and into Southbourne in the opposite/easterly direction.

This will mean that Selangor Avenue has been used as an alternative with traffic continuously breaking speed limits with no regard to public safety. Selangor Avenue is too small for the weight of traffic that will pass through if this development proceeds.

Traffic lights on The Havant road (as proposed) will only further increase the weight of traffic in all directions (including Selangor Avenue).

One of the local schools in Victoria Road (the extension of Selangor Avenue to the east) is Emsworth Primary School which has many concerns with the speed and amount of cars utilizing Selangor Avenue on a daily basis and are appealing for alternative arrangements re traffic calming measures (my concern is for the safety of the children during school pick up times).

Emergency services will struggle to attend many incidents on either road due to the amount of vehicles 'held up' in both directions. Has this been considered ?

Will there be consideration for the additional cars parking in Selangor Avenue which will also add to the dangers for children/residents who live there ? Will there be restricted parking or will there be an overspill from the residents living within the new development area ?

Why is there rarely consideration given to the people who already live in the immediate area?”

Another objection from a resident in Bath Road Emsworth – near the village centre

“My main objection is concerning the lack of forethought regarding the traffic on the A259. The traffic control suggested is not a small local issue, despite its appearance, and needs some serious and more sensible consideration. The volume of cars and commercial vehicles already leaving/joining the A27/A259 is already way beyond the amount which was at first visualised. It is almost non-stop except in the night hours, is extremely noisy, polluting, dangerous for cyclists (despite the more recent cycle lanes provided) and highly dangerous for pedestrians

In June 2016 - before Barretts, the applicant in this case, staged a very well attended Consultation Forum at the Civic Offices, local residents gathered over 500 signatures from local people from many different parts of Emsworth on a petition against this proposed development. As can be seen from the letters of objection on the Council's website – Their reasons are diverse but most focus on the loss of the last remaining gap and what that means to community identity both for Emsworth and for Warblington/Havant. The majority also voice strong concerns about the impact on the traffic that will be caused by the number of cars exiting and accessing this new site via a set of traffic lights so close to a roundabout and slip roads to the fast moving A27. I would ask the committee to consider carefully these 2 aspects of this application. While we can not hope for what one resident wrote

“please consider our future generations who may not be able to enjoy village life as we know it” – there must be a balance in decisions in planning that we make today.

END