

PRESENTATION TO HAVANT COUNCIL
9 September 2020
re
Policy H8 – Land North of Long Copse Lane

My name is Anna Tonkin, a local resident, mother of 2 young children, supporter of the Save Long Copse Lane Action group and am deeply concerned about creating a sustainable future for young people.

It is unreasonable to only consider the recent amendments to the plan when deciding whether it should be approved. Much has changed since January 2019 most notably the acceptance of the need for a new A27 junction. This new junction provides opportunities for changes that were not available in 2019.

Firstly, the reasons the site should not be developed are actually listed under Policy H8 in your plan.

The Long Copse Lane site is the most heavily constrained of all the allocations in the plan and is the least sustainable. It is not within easy walking distance or even easy cycling distance to schools, shops or medical and community facilities. The development would rely heavily on car transport and commercial delivery traffic using the lane which is unarguably unsuited to take more traffic safely and any attempts to alleviate the situation can only result in serious environmental damage. I firmly believe that housing on this site is a mis-direction of resources and in no way will it contribute to the needs of providing housing and the environment that young people want for their future.

I accept that the Council has to maintain an adequate supply of housing land for future development but this can easily be achieved without sacrificing the most sensitive site in the Borough. No one has adequately explained why a small increase in the rate of building on sites such as at Southleigh could not compensate for the removal of Long Copse Lane from the Plan. The added opportunities and benefits of a direct link road to the A27 must surely be recognised.

The Borough needs more homes for local people, first time buyers and young families. The type of housing proposed at Long Copse Lane will be out of the reach of these people and will only be attractive to those wishing to move into the area from elsewhere or who have substantial personal resources. The Council should concentrate on the **local** needs, with priority towards supporting young people.

The evidence showing the unsuitability of site H8 is clear to all but is being overlooked for no clear reasons. For example, in 2015 the Council commissioned a **Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study** from an independent firm of Landscape Consultants. It concluded that the site had a high sensitivity to change and recommended that *'no part of land parcel LCA 21.3 is taken forward for potential growth'*. Nothing has changed in this regard. Given that your housing numbers can be met elsewhere there is no justification for the Long Copse Lane allocation.

We know your aim is to fulfil the housing needs of young people and their environmental aspirations, but there is no way in which using site H8 can contribute. Please consider carefully the arguments made by the Save LCL group in their letter to you last week. With a build rate closer to the national average, the Southleigh can provide homes for young people and the future sensitive sites like LCL can be secured.

For these reasons we would ask you to use this meeting to remove Site H8 from the Plan before it is submitted to the Secretary of State. This will also stop a precedent being set for the development of unsuitable sites. Something I feel sure you would all support.