

Deputation by P Gray

Development Management Committee 13 January 2021

Agenda Item 6

APP/20/01031 - Land south of, Lower Road, Havant

Proposal: Erection of 50 new dwellings together with access, landscaping and open space (Revised Scheme).

There has been a lot of development in Bedhampton in the last few years, with more to come. The Pre-submission Local Plan has not yet been examined by the Planning Inspector so there has been no opportunity to consider the cumulative impact of the individual applications. I urge the members of the Development Management Committee to vote to reject this planning application.

Other residents have made the point in previous submissions (included in the Additional Information for this Agenda Item in the public reports pack for this meeting) that this development will damage Old Bedhampton; turning a haven of peace and tranquillity into a nightmare for pedestrians and cyclists, ruin the archaeological record and harm the local ecology.

I fully support all these points, but I am focusing on the impact to the wider area. This development is contrary to the current Local Plan. To quote the Foreword to the Havant Borough Local Plan 2036, 'Our choice is not whether development takes place. It is whether that development takes place in a planned and coordinated manner, providing infrastructure and environmental safeguards or whether it is ad hoc and unplanned, without the necessary infrastructure.'

Furthermore, the National Policy Framework says that 'The aim of the plan is to enable the council to influence and shape development on behalf of its residents.'

The situation that we have in Bedhampton right now, of uncoordinated developments, each of which harm our neighbourhood and contributes to a significant, negative cumulative impact, is exactly the situation that a Local Plan is meant to avoid.

Before any further development goes ahead, we need to have a robust local plan in place that we can trust to protect our environment while delivering quality housing that enhances our neighbourhood.

The world has changed in the last 12 months. We are all spending more time at home which means we all need and appreciate our local area more than ever. For the good of Bedhampton, I urge you to look to the future and reject this proposal so the Local Plan 2036 can be examined in its entirety and the combined impact of this development alongside those at Forty Acres, Campdown and all the other recently completed developments that are already shown to have strained our infrastructure has been considered.