

Motion on the Southleigh site development

The area known as Southleigh lies to the west of Emsworth and east of Denvilles, Havant and is bordered to the north by Bartons Road. It appeared in the Local Plan submitted in 2019 as a site suitable for 2,100 houses, which is more than double the next biggest site in the plan. It appears again as one of the sites being considered for the new local plan.

The proposal involved shops, a primary school and a link road going south from Bartons Road, through the new estate to take traffic directly onto the A27 at the Warblington Junction. Traffic along Southleigh Road is already excessive with regular long queues at the railway crossing at Warblington, leading to increases in air pollution at Warblington School. The new road would also benefit Emsworth residents, by allowing traffic travelling along the B2149 to avoid Emsworth and access the A27 via a shorter route and would reduce traffic through central Havant by allowing traffic from the New Lane industrial estate, including the new Amazon warehouse to access the A27 more directly.

The final transport assessment with the final preferred route was published in 2020. The Government Inspectors indicated it was important to resolve whether the link road was needed to develop the site and if so, then the road should be built at the start of the project. We are therefore presenting this motion to Council:

If the new Local Plan includes the Southleigh site for new housing we ask the Council to work with Hampshire Highways to:

- a) *Carry out a detailed traffic survey to ascertain whether the proposed link road from Bartons Road to the A27 Warblington junction is required in order to develop the Southleigh site for housing.*

- b) *If the outcome of this survey indicates that the link road is necessary, to make every effort to ensure that the landowner and developer build the link road at the start of the development.*

Proposed: Councillor Phil Munday

Seconded: Councillor Richard Kennett

6 March 2024