

Application Ref	98/00652/FUL	
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Reocode	HIGHWA - Traffic generation/access	Contact address
Contact Email	[REDACTED]	Postcode
Objector type	IP - Interested Party	Phone number
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O - Objection

55 Victory Lane
Rochford
Essex

SS4 3AN

[REDACTED]

2020-05-25 14:34:10+01

Comment

This development will serious adversely affect the lives of all those currently living in Rochford, especially those in the Ashingdon Road area, or anyone who uses the Ashingdon road on a regular basis. Under normal circumstances, the Ashingdon Road is already a highly congested and over used road. It is the main entry and exit route for the whole of Rochford and Ashingdon, as well as a main route to Hockley. The road during the morning and evening rush hours is already an absolutist joke and any disruption anywhere along the Ashingdon Road, right through to the Anne Boleyn, causes traffic on this road to come to a complete standstill. Whether that be someone making a delivery, the bin men collecting rubbish, or planned roadworks, it all has a huge impact on people trying to use this road. The building of so many new homes will increase this pressure in the Ashingdon Road to intolerable levels and will just make everyone's commute a nightmare. In addition, the proposed access point is right out outside Holt Farm School, where you have lots of young children walking to and from school everyday. The proposed plans to remove the oak tree and cycle lane in this area is a recipe for disaster. The pathway is very heavily used during school run times and by narrowing the pavement, you are putting the health and safety of our young children at great risk. The Government announced just recently that one of their actions plans coming out of this pandemic, was to widen pathways, and make more cycle lanes, to encourage people to continue cycling more, as they have done during this period of lockdown. This increase in cycling has not only been good for the nations mental and physical health, but it has also improved the condition of the air quality beyond anything I think we could imagine. This proposal to go against the governments latest advice, and actually remove a well used cycle path (used not only by children going to and from school, but by plenty of adults too) is simply ludicrous and shows that money, as usual, has been placed above all else in importance. By removing the cycle lane especially, you will be fixing cyclists, young and old, to use the road itself, a road already highly congested and this action will, I fear, result in many casualties. Already in recent times we have had at least two accidents involving pedestrians on the zebra crossing outside Rochford Primary School, one of which was the zebra crossing patrol person, who was trying to ensure the safety of our children at the time! Thankfully, no children were hurt, but with the volume of traffic already using this road, an increase of around, what could be, 1,200 (over 600 houses proposed with an average of 2 cats per household) additional cars is both dangerous and totally irresponsible on the part of

the council for even entertaining this as a feasible idea. With Rochford's infrastructure already at breaking point, it is just not possible to sustain such an increase in, not just traffic, but people as well. It is already incredibly difficult to get a doctor's appointment in this area and with no new surgery planned for the new development, this is going to adversely affect the local population as a whole, but more specifically the most vulnerable of our population. The same applies to schools. Holt Farm is a fabulous school and highly sought after within the local community. This new development will affect their intake numbers, in a positive way, hopefully ensuring all places are filled, but what it will do is push children from the current catchment area to schools further afield. There are many schools along the Ashingdon Road, but being a Governor at two of these schools, I know that places are limited, which means that there will be a huge problem of school placements should there be an influx of children to this new development.

Whilst I understand the need for new houses to be built, what I fail to understand in this case, is the need for quite so many in one area, and the proposed main access site being directly opposite an Infants and Junior school is just unbelievably short sighted. Personally, I think there would be far fewer objections if the development was scaled down to a more reasonable size and included plans to enhance the local infrastructure to cope with these new houses. Surely, if this time of an international pandemic has taught us anything at all, it is that there is much more to life than just money?! Surely, we have all learned that the health and safety of our community is far more important than any amount of money that might be made from such a grotesquely oversized development in an area that simply can not support it. Key workers have risked their lives these past few months trying to keep us all safe and protected from this disgusting virus. Please do not undo all the good work that everyone in the local community has been doing by making such a catastrophic error of judgement by allowing this development to go ahead in its current form. Please do have some respect for the people of Rochford and the impact that this development will have on their lives. It's time we started improving what we already have, by investing in local infrastructure and business to help sustain and support the people who already live here, before we start undermining their quality of life, just some building company can make even more money. The people who run Bloor Homes do not live in this area. They do not have to live with the consequences of what they build. They will build their development, ruin the Rochford landscape for those of us that do live here, and then just move onto their next victims. We are stronger than that! We can say no! And so we all should! These plans are over the top in terms of the number of houses proposed. It is a totally irresponsible use of the land and there is no reason why it has to be so big, other than simple greed! It's about time we stood up for our local area and community! Councillors, we elected you to represent us and our views and to do what's right for the local community. Don't let us down, not when we need you the most!