

Thomas Macready,
41 Ivy Lane,
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6th October 2023

Arun District Council
Council Offices
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 5LF

Subject: Objection to Cala Homes Pine Close, Eastergate Housing Development Plans

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my community's strong objection to the proposed housing development plans by Cala Homes at Pine Close, Eastergate. As concerned residents and stakeholders in our community, we believe that this development project is not in the best interest of our neighbourhood and will have several adverse effects on our local environment, infrastructure, and quality of life.

I would like to highlight the following key points brought up by the 602 locals who have signed this petition in objection to this development:

- **Overcrowding and Strain on Local Infrastructure:** The proposed development would significantly increase the population density in the area, placing undue stress on our already strained local infrastructure. Roads, schools, healthcare facilities, sewage network and public services are already ill-equipped to handle the increased demand that this development would bring. We are aware that there are “plans” to build further facilities but when asked to see these plans they have not been developed yet. Further more there is real concern about staffing issues in these services. Where are the Doctors, Teachers, Dentist coming from to man these new positions.
- **Environmental Impact:** The development will lead to the destruction of the biodiversity corridor, which is home to badgers, Egrets, Yellow hammers, Voles, numerous birds and field mice. This impact to local wildlife and the aesthetic appeal of our community is not acceptable. It is essential to preserve these areas for the benefit of current and future generations. Especially considering the recently published “[State of nature report 2023](#)”. Which categorically states that Populations of birds has declined by 42%, Amphibians & reptiles have declined by 31% and Fungi & Lichen has decreased by 28%. This area also has a chalk bed stream running through it, as there are only 230 of these streams globally it is imperative that this haven for wildlife is not further sullied by housing developments.
- **Traffic Congestion and pollution:** The increased number of residents and vehicles in the area would inevitably lead to more traffic congestion, making it challenging for residents to

commute and diminishing road safety in the neighbourhood. The proposed entrance to the site is within 100 meters of the Aldingbourne Primary school and the building site itself backs onto Eastergate Village primary school. This development will have an adverse effect on our children's health and ability to learn given the decrease in air quality and the increase in noise pollution.

- **Loss of Character:** The proposed development does not align with the existing character and architectural style of our community. It would be a stark departure from the charm and heritage that make Eastergate, Westergate and the 7 villages unique.
- **Drain on Local Resources:** Our local schools, doctors' surgeries, and emergency services are already under significant pressure. The addition of more households through this development would only exacerbate these issues, potentially leading to longer waiting times and reduced access to essential services.
- **Drainage of the local site:** This area is prone to flooding. 5 years ago, this field was denied planning permission due to inadequate drainage. What has changed in the past 5 years. To my knowledge the amount of rain has only increased.

I urge the Arun District Council to carefully consider these concerns and the opinions of the residents of Eastergate, Westergate and the surrounding area. We request that you reject the planning application put forth by Clara Homes for the Pine Close development in any and all forms. Instead, we encourage the council to explore alternative solutions and protect this most precious commodity of nature. According to the Royal Botanical Garden report from 2017, wildflower meadows in the UK have declined by 97% since the 1930's making these habitats one of the rarest eco systems. Please do not destroy this one for the sake of 400 "reasonably priced" homes.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will make a decision that best serves the interests of the community and the principles of responsible urban planning. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or if there are public hearings or consultations where I can voice my objections in person.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Macready

P.S Please find a digital copy of the 602 signatures obtained in our petition (All signed by residents who will be directly affected) also here is a link to the [State of nature report](#).