

From: Nicola Oktay on behalf of Planning.Responses
Sent: 26 March 2024 09:29
To: Planning Scanning
Subject: FW: OPPOSITION TO BUILDING APPLICATION AT WESTERGATE: AL/11/24/OUT

REP

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From: Sally Bartlett [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2024 4:59 PM
To: Planning <Planning@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] Cllr. Paul Ayling <[REDACTED]> 'Andrew Griffith MP'
[REDACTED]
Subject: OPPOSITION TO BUILDING APPLICATION AT WESTERGATE: AL/11/24/OUT

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I am writing to voice my concern, along with many local residents, of the above planning application.

There are many reasons to be against this which include:

- Whilst there are public footpaths elsewhere, these are the only open fields within walking distance for many residents and they offer the chance to escape the stress of daily life. With increasing concern in the media for declining mental health of the nation I find it very worrying that the main, if not only, true open fields and countryside are to be taken from local residents. I have only lived here just over a year but have seen children and adults enjoying the chance to take physical exercise and enjoy the much needed tranquility of open fields and nature. The other walks from the village are only footpaths through fields or a busy recreation ground. If the fields are taken for building you will leave residents no option other than to drive elsewhere, which is unfair on people who chose this rural village and especially unfair to those who do not own a car. It is also environmentally negative if we then have to drive. What is the point of building more houses in a rural location if the main source of enjoyment of such a location has been destroyed by the very building of the those houses. There must be better areas to build on which do not take away so much recreational use to residents.
- I also understand there are already sewage issues in this area so to build on that site would be catastrophic.
- The flooding on the A29 since I've lived here is appalling. The A29 to Shripney/Bognor is frequently closed and more housing will hugely exacerbate the problem by taking yet more fields which provide soak-away for rainfall. It is a very large area of draining land potentially being destroyed. I understand that Southern Water also strongly advised against more homes in the Barnham area and this area is certainly no different and potentially worse as closer to the A29 which is so often flooded.
- The A29 is very busy and to add 400 more houses to the village is too much. I understand another ring road would be added but, as above, there must be better areas to build on which would not affect the infrastructure so much.
- There are already 3 week waits for a doctor's appointment so I really can't see how it could cope with another 400 homes and all those potential patients.

I used to live in a rural village in Surrey before I moved here. Over the 50 years I had lived there, there were several new planning applications accepted which I had never opposed but they were built on land which was not used by residents for recreational purposes. So I am not against the building of new homes per se but in this case it seems wholly unsuitable at any stage for building permission to be granted for the current planning application.

Thank you for your time reading this and I do please urge you to let this peaceful village keep the very much needed recreational land of the fields. They are a haven for our residents and wildlife and should not be destroyed for ever for all of the above reasons.

Sally Bartlett

