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From: Kerry Powell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 12:05 PM
To: Planning <Planning@arun.gov.uk>

Subject: Planning Application AL/11/24/OUT

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To Whom in may concern,

I am writing to send a strong objection to the proposed building of 400 new homes in the fields to the East of Westergate.

As a resident of this area for 43 years I have seen the detrimental affects of continuous new builds in surrounding villages. There are so many reasons as to why these houses should not be built and if they are, this could cause further damage to what used to be a lovely village.

Firstly, the fields in question are some of the remaining fields and green space in the area. Previously thriving with wildlife, these fields are a HOME for numerous birds, voles, mice, squirrels, grass snakes, lizards, bats and deer. Not only is this important for this reason but this is also a remaining green space for people to walk their dogs with freedom. I have done this for over 40 years!

The area contains Biodiversity Corridors and chalk streams which also contributes to the wildlife and ultimately this plan threatens the Aldingbourne Parish neighbourhood development plan, namely EH2 Green infrastructure & Ecosystems, EH4 Protection of watercourses, EH5 Surface Water Management Plan and EH6 Protection of Trees and Hedgerows.

In addition to the above, the current flooding in the area has basically brought the village to a halt! Sewage rising from inspection covers is proof that the current treatment works CANNOT cope with the current demand, let alone 400 more houses! Even Southern Water themselves have 'strongly advised AGAINST' additional homes. This has been emphasised by the catchment area regularly flooding due to overburdening during periods of rainfall. At one point in the last few months, Westergate residents have pretty much been 'trapped' due to closures in every direction out of the village! This is not acceptable! The new homes already built have caused additional flooding with the water having no where to go! Funny how all of these new builds are 'built up' with the current residents being flooded!

The proposal also refers to access via Pine Close - have you seen Pine Close? It's a small road which is in no way able to facilitate further traffic! My son takes his life in his hands every time he crosses that road already, not to mention the affect on the existing pedestrian crossings! Kids walk to school on their own and an increase in traffic of at least 800 cars, will only make this more dangerous.

As a resident, I have noticed severe damage to local infrastructure. Schools (two tiny primary schools!), doctors and dentists are bursting to keep up with demand. The current Croft Surgery is being rebuilt but this will be in no way big enough to absorb the additional people that will join the area! Doctors appointments and NHS waiting lists are at their worst, putting health and risk.

There was once a time when it was said the villages would never meet....they sure do now! The eye-sores of new builds has made Westergate and the surrounding areas look like a concrete jungle! At what point will people recognise that enough is enough....NO MORE! Local employment is also a big issue with more and more people losing jobs.

Please, as a resident of over 40 years, I am asking you to rethink these plans. We have taken our 'burden' of new houses but this must now stop before it is too late!

Yours Sincerely,

Kerry Powell
Westergate resident