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From: andrewtimlick [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:51 PM
To: Planning <Planning@arun.gov.uk>

Subject: Planning application reference AL/11/24/001

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Dear Sirs

We wish to formally object to the planning application for 400 No dwellings on Land East of Westergate ref AL/11/24/OUT.

We have lived in the village for over 30 years and have had the benefit of walking the fields during that time (almost daily for the last 14 years).

During that time we have had the pleasure of spotting water voles swimming and kingfishers, herons and egrets hunting for food in the Rife.

We have seen deer, foxes, slow worms, rabbits, rats and mice going about their business in the fields. Our spirits have been lifted spotting the first bluebells, primroses and wild daffodils of the year. We have conversed with others who have indicated they had seen seven different varieties of butterfly in an hour walking the fields.

We have seen families having picnics and teenagers getting away from everyone in the long grass. Small children chasing grasshoppers and older children with nets and jam jars catching small fish (possibly minnows or sticklebacks they were unsure).

During times of Covid it became a welcome place to get away from the house confinement into the fresh air, commune with nature whilst socially distancing and it did not involve driving.

Once an area like this is lost to housing it is gone forever.

The area contained in the application is the entirety of the Biodiversity Corridor in the agreed Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The area is bounded on one side by the Rife with various field drains/streams feeding into it. According to the Wildlife trust there are only 200 chalk rivers known globally, 85% of which are found in southern and eastern England.

Towards the end of December 2022 I was fed up with the foul manholes in the fields overflowing and discharging raw sewage into the Rife and contacted the Environment Agency. Very little was done but eventually a few hay bales were put around what I have since learned from the above application are Manholes 3301, 2401 and 2501 (See Southern Water Plan).

Towards the end of October 2023 I had to contact the Environment Agency again as there was a foot high fountain of ■■■■ bursting out the top of Manhole 3301 and pouring into the Rife. Unfortunately because of the inclement weather we have been having, Manholes 2401 and 2501 have also overflowed and recently have been joined by Manholes 2602 and 2601 discharging into the Rife. All that has happened is that four of the five manholes had more hay bales put around them and now that has been reinforced with a few metal pins and some orange plastic netting. Presumably so people cannot see what's going on rather than stopping the manholes from discharging into Rife.

According to top-of-the-poops web site there were 164 sewage dumps into the Lidsey Rife in 2023 acknowledged by Southern Water (that's 3.2 times a week on average). I do not know if they were aware of the above instances.

The application offers three options concerning foul drainage. Option 1 is to connect into the existing drain runs that obviously cannot cope with the current demands. Options 2 & 3 appear to acknowledge option 1 could be a problem and involves new pipework across land not owned by the applicant. I have recently been made aware of The Grampian Caselaw Condition that appears to prevent the start of work on a development until offsite works have been completed on land not controlled by the applicant.

It also appears the Lidsey Waste Water Treatment Plant cannot cope with the existing demands as evidenced by the top-of the-poops site.

There are currently numerous public footpaths across the fields enabling children and pets to run free without fear of being hit by cars or bicycles. Most of these appear to have been lost to pavements and cycle paths. The only dedicated footpath for kids to run free on are right next to foul manholes that overflow.

Granting this application as presented denies future generations the benefits we have been able to enjoy by being in the countryside after only a few minutes walk and appears to encourage future generations to engage in a very different and disturbing interpretation of pooh sticks in the Rife.

We implore the committee to deny this application but if it must be granted to impose a Condition delaying the start of the development until the infrastructure works required to accommodate it can be fully completed to protect the Rife rather than turn it into an open sewer.

Regards

Andy and Rachel Timlick

16 Belle Meade Close

Woodgate