

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
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Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2024 10:18 PM
To: Planning <Planning@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: AL/11/24/OUT

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30th March 2024

Planning Department
Arun District Council
Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
West Sussex
BN17 5LF

Reference: Objection to Planning Application AL/11/24/OUT

Dear Planning Department at Arun District Council,

I am writing to make my objection to planning application AL/11/24/OUT, which proposes the construction of 400 houses in the fields east of my home in the village of Westergate, West Sussex.

As a resident and stakeholder in the community, I have thoroughly reviewed the application and wish to formally express my strong opposition to its approval for the following reasons:

The Environment and Biodiversity Corridor: The proposed development will cause irreversible environmental damage, including the destruction of wildlife habitats, increased pollution, and damage to green spaces.

My daughter and I love to watch the wildlife that inhabits this lovely green space, such as grass snakes, kingfishers, water voles, little egrets, lizards, and bats.

Biodiversity corridors run through this area, and the Eastergate rife is an endangered chalk stream. The Aldingbourne Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan protects the area under various key policies, including:

EH2 Green Infrastructure and Ecosystems

EH4 Protection of Watercourses.

EH5 Surface Water Management

EH6 Protection of Trees and Hedgerows.

EH12 Protection of bat habitats.

Loss of Recreational Space: The proposed development will destroy the area's only green and wild space, which I use to walk my dogs.

Sewage and Flooding: Evidence of sewage spillage is already hindering my walks. Southern Water insists that Lidsey Sewage Treatment Works is already beyond capacity; it cannot support two more dwellings and certainly NOT 400!

A recent Southern Water response "strongly advised against" additional homes under a recent planning application in the Barnham area. Stating that two dwellings in the planning application numbered W1/23/111/PL "the local catchment area being overburdened during periods of rainfall".

The local road network is beyond breaking point and cannot handle sustained rainfall. The flooding in this area has become untenable, and is exacerbated by the increase in development every which way you turn locally.

Traffic Congestion, Vehicle Access and Air Pollution: The proposed development will add to the existing traffic congestion in the area. The A29 is beyond capacity due to increased local traffic from increased housing developments. The current air pollution is disgusting. The increased volume of traffic from more houses is unthinkable. School children are already breathing in unhealthy amounts of petrol fumes. The road network and infrastructure to support the influx of 400+ vehicles (the average car ownership is three per household) raise serious safety and health concerns.

Loss of Footpaths and Cycle Path Networks: My family and I use the existing footpaths and cycle paths. They are vital to the entire local community. The proposed development will adversely affect Footpaths 296, 297, 298, 300 and 317, as per the WSCC Public Rights of Way consultation. I especially object to Footpath 297, which countless schoolchildren use to get to the local schools. Without this, they will have to cross the dangerously congested A29. I worked with the local school to generate a 'Slow the Traffic Campaign', hoping to get speed cameras installed. I was told that until there were two deaths on this road, no cameras would be permitted.

Noise Pollution: Building construction for the proposed development will disrupt the entire community.

Impact on Infrastructure and Strain on Vital Services: The local infrastructure is at breaking point: schools, GP surgeries, NHS dentists, road networks are not capable of coping with the demands of the proposed development.

Loss of Community Identity: The proposed development will ruin the unique character of the area – especially the setting of listed buildings, the character and appearance of the Eastergate Church Lane Conservation Area, and public rights of way. It will have a detrimental effect and lead to a decline in property values and quality of life.

Lack of Public Benefit: I have seen nothing to prove that the proposed development will benefit the public economically, socially, environmentally, or infrastructurally.

I urge the planning authority to reject application AL/11/24/OUT. Approval of this proposal would not be in the local community's best interests and would irreversibly destroy the area.

I request that the planning authority consider every objection raised by distraught residents and conduct a comprehensive assessment of the proposed development's real impacts on the local area.

Thank you for considering my objections to planning application AL/11/24/OUT. I trust that the planning authority will make a decision that prioritises the community's interests over the developers'.

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Hazelden