

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
www.arun.gov.uk

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From: Janet [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 10:50 AM

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

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Dear Sirs

Re Planning Application AL/11/24/OUT

I am writing to object to the building of 400 homes on the site above. The reasons are as follows

- 1) This site is part of the recreational and environment area laid out in the Arun Local plan. This area is used by many people each day. I use this area for recreation and as a walk through the fields to visit Eastergate and Barnham at least 4 times a week. There are others who use it every day, more than once if for dog walking. Our children used this as part of their walk to senior school in Barnham, a nicer walk in the countryside after a day in the classroom, giving them vital exercise and mental wellbeing.
- 2) It is acting as a Biodiversity corridor, linking areas to allow the movement of animals. I have seen slowworms, water voles, lizards as well as many types of birds in the fields over the years, and I have been told there are bats too. It is, in my opinion, vital to keep this area for the wildlife. It allows children to experience these animals close to their home. There is also a chalk stream, The Eastergate Rife, which flows through this land. This is a rare environment and should be protected. As it is there is sewage leaking into the rife which will undoubtedly pollute the environment and adding more houses will only exacerbate the issue and cause serious damage to the environment and local community.
- 3) We have lived here since 1987, and in this time there has been a lot of building works in the village. There have been many houses built backing onto these fields, including Pine Close, Oaks Close, Belle Mede, not to mention the new developments along the A29 which have yet to be completed. However, with all the new housing there has not been any development of correspondingly needed infrastructure. The A29 is already choked with traffic; it can back up all the way along Fontwell Avenue. The Doctors are overwhelmed and overprescribed. There are no local NHS dentists. The local schools are at capacity. The Sewage system is at crisis point. The county council objected to houses being built to the east of Westergate because there was no secondary education provision for any more children. This situation has not changed.
- 4) The sewage works at Shripney is working beyond its capability as sewage is being pumped at Barnham to stop it from appearing on the streets. Sewage is flowing from the inspection covers in the fields to the south of this proposed building site. This vital service cannot safely support another 400 homes.
- 5) The proposal is that the access road for the properties will be Pine Close. This would mean that somewhere between an extra 800 to 1200 cars would be using the A29 each day. It is already choked with traffic. The increase in the pollution levels to those of us living on A29 will be unacceptable and an increased health risk. Any access to the A29 is fraught with difficulty, Oaks Close is not a big enough road, Ivy Lane and Pine Close are all close to pedestrian crossings and Pine Close is on a blind bend on a main road, so far from ideal and potentially very dangerous regardless of any new road layouts. Pine Close is a relatively new build itself and some of the houses have front doors directly onto the pavement, houses in Oaks Close would also have this problem, should that be the access road. This would mean that these properties would be only a pavement width away from the traffic, which is incredibly dangerous.
- 6) Roads in the area this winter have frequently been flooded and caused significant road closures in the area. The A29 at Shripney has been closed, at times, since October 2023. It was closed for nearly 6 weeks at its worst and this has never happened at such frequency in the past. Tesco has been shut for weeks over the same period due to the carpark flooding. Fontwell Avenue has been shut over February and March due to flooding- again something that has not happened in my memory. Nyton Lane has also been shut because of flooding. Barnham Road was shut due to drain collapse and Elm Grove is still shut and has been since October. This, in my opinion, is due in part to excess run off from the new buildings in the area, being on what was farmland that could absorb more of the rainfall. Any new housing in the area will exacerbate this problem.
- 7) Southern Water have also responded recently with "strongly advised against" additional homes under a recent planning application in the Barnham area, saying that for just 2 new dwellings (planning application W1/23/111/PL) that the "local catchment area being overburdened during periods of rainfall". So another 400 homes, will significantly add to this problem and Southern Water themselves are saying in effect that they cannot deal with the consequences of more dwellings.

- 8) This is the last green area where we can freely roam in the locality. It was a vital life line to those of us who live here during lockdown. We as a family walked there every day as part of our allowed one hour walk. In the event of another such lockdown there would be nowhere like this open land for us to walk.

In summary, I strongly object to this development.

Yours Faithfully

Janet Playford

2 Meadow Way

Westergate

PO20 3QT

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