

MXC
ACK
From: Peter Howlett ([REDACTED])

To Arun District Council Planning Department
For attention of Mr. N. Crowther

1st April 2011



Re: Planning Application: LU/63/11 'Link Road' Littlehampton.

Dear Sir,

I wish to lodge objection to this planning application and ask you to submit my comments below to the planning committee. I see the logic of the current work, making a new access to the Academy via East Street. But the rest of the so-called 'link road' to the A259 would be an expensive waste of tax-payers money, an act of environmental vandalism and cause detrimental change to the way of life for hundreds of local residents. The WSCC application in its current form should be rejected or amended to allow planning consent only as far as access to the Academy from East Street. Extension of the road to the A259 would require building a roundabout on the narrow pinch-point between the Wick roundabout and the Body-Shop roundabout. That would make rush-hour congestion on that stretch of A259 even more frustrating!

On a point of procedure, planning laws require that all reasonable steps should be taken to inform local residents of a planning application that is likely to affect the future use of their property. Such information is particularly vital when someone proposes the monstrous imposition of a through-traffic route idiotically close to existing residential dwellings. Yet the hundred or so householders in Highdown Drive and Amberley Close have not had so much as a courtesy letter expressing intent for this planning application. Notifications of a planning application have not even been attached to local lamp-posts, contrary to accepted procedure.

My further points/objections are as follows:

- (1) **Damage to the environment due to excessive road-building.** Adequate road access to the Academy is already under construction from the East Street roundabout. There is no proven need for additional vehicle access to the Academy from the A259. Currently, students from housing situated north of the A259 actually WALK across the field to the rear of their school. As a nation I thought we were supposed to encourage such healthy habits not build superfluous roads in furtherance of school-transport by Chelsea-Tractor! I can only assume that extension of the road from the Academy to the A259 is in support of the proposed North-Littlehampton development. Yet until that planning issue is settled, application LU/63/11 in its present form is premature. Even if pressure to develop North L/H overwhelms democratic objection, residents still need to be closely involved in an up-dated review of local road-needs. Carving a through-road across valuable green recreation-space sounds like a dusty old plan from yester-year.

CONTD
PAGE 2

- (2) **Objection to wasteful expenditure.** Extension of the Academy access road northwards to the A.259 would be an expensive liability upon council taxpayers, both for construction and on-going maintenance. I object to my elected representatives voting to waste millions of pounds of our money to pour tons of concrete and tarmac over green space to the rear of my property. This proposed superfluous link to the A259 would inevitably become the main road to the sea for day-trippers from other parts of the country. As such the proposed road is unacceptably close to existing residential properties. Around 100 properties in Highdown Drive and Amberley Close would become subject to constant noise, exhaust fumes and vibration from main road through-traffic. Such serious intrusion will impact upon residents to such an extent that they will seek considerable financial compensation. While I might dream of spending mine on a nice boat, the responsible side of me aches for my neighbours who will be very upset if this 'through-road' is approved. The wider community might also be quite upset about councillors approving a scheme on their behalf with such an expensive price-tag. If a tasty offering from developers is on offer for road-schemes it would be better spent on linking the A.27 to the north-end of their new estate. Their new residents could then have easy-access to the national road system instead of a fast route to a traffic-jam on the A259 or a fuming queue by the Academy.
- (3) **Objection on health and safety issues.** It is burned into my memory that a consultant neurologist once told me that my late-onset epilepsy was aggravated by the constant noise from a nearby main road! This proposed through-road would have a detrimental impact on my health due to being so close to my home. It is also well documented that traffic-fumes increase the incidence of asthma and other respiratory distress. A through-road adjacent to the Academy and other schools is not conducive to the health of our Town's children and young people during school time and when using the school's recreational facilities. Through-roads inevitably increase traffic-speed and thus pose a risk to the lives and well-being of students. People using the green space for dog-walking and other leisure pursuits would lose their present freedom from traffic-danger, fumes and noise.

If the North L/H development is given planning permission then this green space adjacent to our town's educational hub would be all the more essential. Far from being a good investment for development money, this 'link' in the road-chain would make over-building in our town even less acceptable to hundreds of Littlehampton residents. Please re-think, re-plan and re-involve the citizens of this town in planning their roads.

Yours faithfully

Peter Howlett