

NXC

ACK

8 Amberley Close,
Wick,
Littlehampton,
West Sussex.
BN17 6HN.

3rd April, 2011.

Dear Mr. Crowther,

Ref: LU/63/11. Fitzalan Link Road, Littlehampton.

I am writing with respect to the above application for a road to be built behind the properties in Highdown Drive and Amberley Close.

I would like firstly to put some questions to you with regards to the building of this road.

My first question is: What exactly is this road being built, for?

I can see that it has been named the "Fitzalan Link Road", but what is there to be achieved, in linking these two roads together? Considering that there is already a constant stream of traffic along the A259 (and not only just at peak times), how will introducing more traffic to that road, help in any way? I believe that it will simply prove to become a "rat run" from Littlehampton to Toddington, where speeding cars can find a quick cut-through, only to end up stuck in a line of cars waiting to join the A259. (As can sometimes already be the case, at the top of Highdown Drive). Even if there is to be a new roundabout built there, the traffic will still end up queuing there.

If it is to provide access to the new and extended Littlehampton Academy, surely a road leading to and from a sufficiently - sized car park would suffice? (Which, according to the plan, there already is).

I believe, (rightly or wrongly), that the underlying reason to link these two roads together, is so that there is a "fast route" from the police station to the soon-to-be-built "North Littlehampton" -- which in turn, leads me to believe that there is already some anticipation of the possibility of "social discontent", from having quite so much housing crammed into a small area, with little or no infrastructure to support it. Perhaps the council are trying to pre-empt this possibility, and putting in place a fast route to enable the police quick access to the "trouble zone"?

So, my second question is: "Has there been any thought on the impact to the residential neighbours not only whilst this road is being built, but also once it has been built, and there is a significant amount of traffic thundering along this road?"

Well, my answer (and also the view of the Arun DC Environmental Health Office) is obviously: "No".

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

5 - APR 2011

RECEIVED

Let me explain; when we moved into our house, 5 years ago, there were a number of reasons behind it:

It had a large garden, which was not overlooked, and backed onto a green space where people were able to enjoy some peace and quiet, walk and exercise their dogs off lead, and generally enjoy being away from the traffic and noise of the nearby roads. That will now all change, if this road is built; There will be a constant noise from traffic, not to mention pollution, and dogs will no longer be able to run freely, for fear of being run over.

One side of our garden will now back on to a pedestrian pavement, which means that our seclusion and privacy will be severely diminished, so much so, that we may be forced to re-build our boundary fence in order to keep "nosey parkers" at bay.

Which leads me onto another question;

Will there be any compensation with regards to loss of privacy, or indeed, the de-valuation of our house, as there will now be a main road, running directly behind it?

I think I can probably answer that myself, and the answer again, is: "No" – (probably not).

So, not only do we have to put up with the noise of the traffic, the pollution, and lack of privacy, but also, if we indeed decided to sell our house to move to a quieter area, we would also have to, no doubt, be prepared to lose money on the value of our house, because a decision that has been made (which was out of our hands), to build something which not only de-values our house, but is also unwelcome and seemingly unnecessary.

I cannot understand this infatuation from the council, who seem to constantly find it necessary to find ways in which to ruin what seems to be the only piece of green space left in the nearby area. Firstly, there was a plan to build 200 or so houses on it, which, after Elysian Fields, naturally fell against strong opposition. Then, the camping and caravan park is told to vacate, in order to build yet more houses and flats, (which I find outrageous, as surely we should be encouraging people to visit our area on their holidays?) and now, there are plans for a road to run straight through it. Why can't this space be left as a green space, for people to enjoy?

I can probably answer that one, as well: If it is left as a green space, it will need maintaining, at a cost to the council, and all they seem to be concerned about, at the moment, is revenue from houses.

I appreciate that so many houses have to be built in the next so many years, as is directed from the Government... but we seem to have taken on more than our share in this small area, firstly in the Beaumont, then Parklands, then the Poplars, then Elysian Fields, then soon to be North Littlehampton, and now there is talk about MORE houses at Courtwick and in Lyminster... soon we will have no green areas at all. Just urban estates, with houses, houses and more houses... How depressing will that be?

However, back to the road...

I personally do not see any advantage to putting this road in, other than it will create yet another road, to join up to the already congested A259. It will pose a hazard to the schoolchildren who often walk across the field on their way to and from school, and also will simply create noise and pollution to what is, currently, a very peaceful area. A number of local people have been exercising their dogs here for many years; it will be such a shame for them to no longer have that space.

I hope you will take my reasons into consideration, I am sure that I am not alone with these thoughts, and I await your reply in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Mrs Jennifer Millard.

Mrs Jennifer Millard.