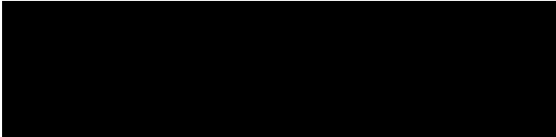


11 Larchfield Close
Grange Park
Aldwick
W Sussex
PO21 4RB



24th February 2017

Assistant Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration
Arun Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton BN17 5LF

Dear Sir or Madam

Applications: P/134/16/OUT Sefter Road
P/140/16/OUT Pagham Road
P/6/17/OUT Hook Lane

Like many people I fully appreciate that we need to provide housing for our growing population. However I think that careful consideration needs to be given to the positioning and sustainability of such housing and I firmly believe that Sefter Road, Pagham Road and Hook Lane are unsuitable for the proposed development of 1330+ homes on greenfield sites.

Firstly the area is a natural environment used as prime farmland. As we prepare to leave the EU, we will need to be more dependent on producing our own food and all arable land should be kept available for this. This area has some of the most fertile and best growing land in the country and should be kept available for food production. This has been clearly demonstrated by the poor weather in Spain which has caused a shortage of vegetables here. I attach an article from the Daily Mail Saturday 25th February in which Meurig Raymond, President of the NFU clearly states the case for the production of more food in the UK. **It simply does not make sense to cover good agricultural land with housing!!**

The area is notoriously prone to flooding and Pagham Road, Lower Bognor Road and other local roads that link to them have been closed on occasions to deal with this. As recently as 2012 the whole area suffered severe flooding and development on flood plains can only increase this.

The main single track road leading to Pagham is extremely busy especially at rush hour and in the summer holiday season, and turning right from Sefter Road already presents a problem. In addition the road is used by large HGVs driving to local farms and distribution centres. I understand that further HGV movements will occur if planning is granted for a new distribution centre. Additional construction vehicles on such an unsuitable road would present yet another hazard. Public transport in the area is poor and the development would lead to further traffic congestion, as there is little work locally and most people commute out of the area.

I note from the information provided by the contractor that Grove House surgery is local to the Sefton Road site. Obviously no one from the developers has tried to get an appointment at this already overcrowded surgery. Where are the provisions for healthcare and infrastructure to come from? The proposed development is simply unsustainable.

As I understand it no decision has been made with regard to the A27 upgrades and no development should be undertaken until this has been established. Today I have once again queued along the A27 when returning from Chichester and this is without any events at Goodwood! Local roads have not been upgraded to cope with the current traffic use (particularly HGVs) and as far as I am aware there are no proposals in place for this. Furthermore the traffic lights at Oving are being closed meaning that more traffic from the peninsula will be directed onto existing roundabouts on the A27.

Having attended local public meetings regarding the development of the area which was addressed by knowledgeable individuals I can assure you that there is a great strength of opposition from the local population and these and other proposed local developments (such as Chalcroft Lane) will be strongly opposed.

I firmly believe that these sites are unsuitable for the proposed development and that the Council should be concentrating on using brown field sites rather than reducing our arable land. I would therefore strongly recommend that these proposals be rejected.

Yours sincerely



Linda Skinner

c.c. Nick Gibb MP for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton
George Eustice MP Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Savid Javid MP Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

British salad all year, grown under lights

By Sean Poulter
Consumer Affairs Editor

BRITISH-GROWN salad leaves will be sold 365 days a year with crops being grown in vast greenhouses under LED lights.

The technology means families who want salad in the depths of winter will no longer have to rely on imports from Spain or even the US.

Crops are being grown in a 1.5 hectare glasshouse at Evesham in Worcestershire, which runs efficient LED lighting, heating and watering.

The first product to come out of the spring-like microclimate is the Waitrose British Chard & Salad Leaves bag. However, Waitrose is charging the same as if it was importing them from Spain - £1.99 for a 100g bag.

Under the new system, the salad is grown using hydroponic technology, which means the crops are being constantly fed with nutrient-rich water.

It takes 35-40 days to grow the salad in these conditions compared with up to 112 in the field, so the yield is almost three times higher.

Rather than using chemical sprays to keep out pests, the

Go exotic, farmers urged

BRITAIN needs to grow more 'exotic' vegetables and stop relying on foreign imports, a farming leader has said.

Meurig Raymond, president of the NFU, spoke out after a national shortage of some vegetables caused by appalling weather in Spain.

Speaking ahead of the NFU conference in Birmingham, he said: 'British people want

to source more British food. The costs may be higher in the UK but the lack of these exotic vegetables has caused the issues we have seen.'

He said Britain has the glasshouses and polytunnels needed to grow courgettes, aubergines and lettuce. It comes after stores rationed veg amid a crop crisis caused by poor Spanish weather.

project, developed by salad supplier Wingland Foods, will introduce beneficial insects such as ladybirds to eat any bugs that could damage the plants.

The fact that the salad is being harvested in Worcestershire, rather than Murcia, in southern Spain, means they are much fresher when they reach customers.

Procurement manager at Wingland Foods, Rob Stevens, said: 'Our expert team are working on expanding the range of leaves available and bringing in new varieties of leaf, as well as ensuring the consistency in flavour, texture and size that is

delivered to customers.' Head of fresh produce at Waitrose, Nicola Waller, said: 'It's great to see the first of our British salad bags hitting the shelves so early in the season.'

'Developing this innovative new way of growing salad leaves means that we can source from the UK all year round, going even further in our commitment to British farming.'

It comes after an appalling run of weather in Spain, including drought, floods and snow, ruined crops this winter.

As a result, British stores were forced to ration sales of lettuces, broccoli, courgettes, aubergines and cabbage.

CK

Daily Mail - Sat. 25/2/17