

Received On

24 JUL 2017

By Planning Services

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Planning Policy Team
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23rd July 2017

Dear Sirs

I, the undersigned, do hereby object to the proposed building of 280 new homes: reference Policy SAMU5, Development of land South of Thorpe Road, Weeley for the following planning reasons:

I totally object to the proposed plan for Weeley, the accessibility criteria on which the choice of Weeley was made is fatally flawed, in terms of transport and statistics.

The plan for Weeley is completely contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework's statement that it is the purpose of planning to achieve sustainable development - not development at any cost! The plan for Weeley is totally development at any cost, not taking into account residents' objections, lack of infrastructure, loss of natural, rural, and historic environment, and ignoring the fact that a more suitable site along the A120 at Horsley Cross is available, already having been ear-marked for development.

When the first Public Consultations began, 5 Options were presented as being viable alternatives, several of them being suggested as 'Garden Villages' (A contradiction in terms if ever there were) - Horsley Cross was not one of them, despite the fact that the A120 to the port is badly in need of upgrading.

- Building in Weeley Heath and Weeley Village has already reached its 10% quota for the next few years. The proposed developments are totally disproportionate and detrimental, and not in keeping with the rural nature of the region.
- The plan is OVER-DEVELOPMENT to a totally unacceptable level - doubling the size of the Village cannot be right or proper.

- The land proposed is good agricultural land. If developed, where will food come from for all the extra population if this happens country-wide? We cannot afford to lose the land that feeds us. This is therefore **CONTRARY** to sustainability in my view!
- The threat of the plan is already affecting the health and well-being of the existing population. There is no NHS provision to cover the extra population - you can build all the surgeries you like, but how will it be staffed? Likewise schools and education.
- **Motor Transport** links are poor, the roads ill-maintained, and the slightest hiccup causes major tailbacks right from the A120 down to Weeley roundabout as it is. The extra cars from all the developments along the route from Clacton, Walton, Frinton, Kirby and Thorpe are not going to help that situation one little bit! Weeley Village has been bypassed not once, but **TWICE**, because it is the bottleneck of the Tendring Peninsula. It makes **NO** sense to put extra housing at that point, and certainly **NO** sense whatever strategically! Hold-ups to traffic exiting Clacton at weekends is up to a mile long to Weeley roundabout.
- **Rail Transport** is a joke. One local station, un-manned, with a ticket machine that goes wrong whenever you sneeze - services stopping at every local station to Colchester, and only running once an hour, and not on Sundays. The scrap yard ingress onto the existing car park, has limited access to the station platform to dangerous levels in my opinion. Far better would be the access to Manningtree **MAIN-LINE** station from a development at Horsley Cross. At only 4.2 miles away, a journey of approximately 12 minutes, this makes the site far more strategic than that from Weeley Station. Interestingly, the Chair of the Council's Local Plan Committee admitted that he goes to Manningtree rather than catch a train locally!!
- **Infrastructure** in Tendring as a whole is at breaking point, as illustrated by the sink-hole appearing in Thorpe-le-Soken high street last year. Sewage backs up all along the pipes from Thorpe to Weeley, and overflows near the crematorium roundabout, and down under Weeley bridge. How on earth does anyone in their right mind expect it to cope with even more dwellings feeding into it?
- The council have completely ignored the historic and rural nature of Weeley, which is mentioned in the Domesday book and is one of the oldest villages in the area. It used to have a barracks here during the Napoleonic Wars, 1803 - 1815, stationing troops from the Highlanders, has many ancient houses and farmsteads, and World War 2 bunkers. These need protection from encroachment by unnecessary and unwanted developments. The Church is well-known as being one of few standing in fields, and is much admired as such.
- However, my main concern is the loss of a well-used and much loved footpath. Let me take you on a journey -



View across to Barracks Field from Church Lane



The glade leading up to Barracks Field from the railway line - a wildlife haven.



View looking back to the glade from the top of Barracks Field - notice the very well-trodden path - it is used every day by people who enjoy the peace and quiet and the views. Unfortunately, the council person I spoke to at the last exhibition at Weeley Offices 6th July 2017 said - "it isn't designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty on my paperwork" - but when asked if he had ever walked down the footpath he replied "No".



View of the new Barleyfield development from the footpath.



Continuing walk past the Gymkhana Field, alongside Hospital Field



View over to the Church from the end of the new Development, where the proposed excessive land allocation is on the Plan.

There is no planning application for this land - yet this is waiting at the end of Barleyfield, which is finished?



As I am sure that you will understand, a walk through a building site or new housing development will not be the same! This walk is very popular because it gives a sense of well-being, and one can imagine the old barrack troops and horses as you walk across that field.

I am sure the Government Inspector will give this great consideration, before reaching a final decision.

Yours faithfully

Angela V Barnes