

FAO: Planning Officer
Tendring District Council
Council Offices
Thorpe Road
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Received On

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By Planning Services

Tendring District Council Draft Local Plan

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

I would like to submit my observations and objections concerning the possible building of 280 new houses in the village of Weeley as outlined in the Draft Local Plan.

Several anomalies Ref: Spatial Portrait (2:1) Detrimental to Weeley village (e.g. "Weeley is a broadly sustainable location with both strategic road and rail links" - section 2 Local Plan SA)

Site entry is proposed to be onto Thorpe Road which is already congested and according to the draft plan TDC are proposing building over 1000 houses in Frinton, Walton, Kirby Cross, Thorpe and Little Clacton, and another 280 houses (plus the approximately 55+ that have already been built or have planning permission) in Weeley. All these homes will presumably own at least one car, many of which wish to access the A133 at the Weeley roundabout using Thorpe Road. Weeley is a pinch point where 3 roads converge and this is where there are plans to build yet more houses.

The B1033, B1441 and A133 (which has been identified as the 2nd most dangerous road in Essex after the A12 with several recent fatalities) would be unable to accommodate safely, the large amounts of additional traffic generated by such extensive development. Such large-scale expansion would most certainly not be contributing to supporting a strong, vibrant and healthy community as set out in section 7 ii of the NPPF - it would be destroying it. It would completely destroy the character and identity of Weeley, thus contravening the National Planning policies.

We are told there will be updates to the A12, A120 and to some extent the A133, yet we know full well there is little or nothing that can be done to widen the existing network of minor roads and lanes within the Tendring District area.

As a local resident I can see that the plans are unworkable. Bus and rail services are limited and the road network cannot be adapted to accommodate the huge increase in traffic that would be generated. Commuters driving to Colchester, Ipswich and Clacton are already experiencing serious delays in their journeys. During the summer months the Weeley section of the B1033 is already experiencing constant streams of traffic as holidaymakers travel to

Frinton and Walton and this is the road that provides access to the proposed site.

We are also given to understand that the Tendring District has not been included in the list of priority improvements for rail services, which will exacerbate the inevitable roads crisis that is bound to arise from these housing targets. Weeley Station is unmanned and has no parking facilities and served only by slow, infrequent local trains (and no Sunday service at all!) and will not be the preferred choice of most commuters, most of whom will use their cars to work outside the Tendring area.

Policy HP1 There is currently no GP surgery or pharmacy in Weeley and NHS policies indicate that funds for a new surgery would not be forthcoming. The village is served by practices in Great Bentley and Thorpe, both of which need to be accessed by car. Both are very busy and non urgent appointments are weeks ahead. Most of the local practices in Clacton have closed their books to new patients and the district as a whole is unable to attract the extra G.P's it desperately needs.

Colchester General Hospital continues to struggle under the inevitable pressure of having to cover too wide an area. How will it cope with all the extra patients arising from all the proposed new housing in Tendring and Colchester? Is there room for expansion of hospital services at Colchester? Again, because of the position of the hospital, it is really only accessible from the Tendring area by car.

Section 106 The primary school in Weeley is already full and we have learnt that were this development to take place, proposals for a new primary school in the village are unlikely to materialize, and to where will secondary age pupils be bussed as there is a limit to the number that can be accommodated at Tendring Technology College? There are 20 new family houses that have been built in Weeley recently - where do any children associated with these houses go to school?

A recently published Housing Needs report commissioned by TDC admits that one of the factors taken into account when arriving at the target figures for the district is the anticipated London overspill. It would be unfair if Weeley were to be swamped by large numbers of people from outside the area.

Who are we building these houses for?

How many will be for local people?

How many of these houses will be lived in by people who are on the TDC's housing list?

The development which has been proposed for Weeley, as well as the applications that have already been approved, will not fulfill any social, economic or environmental needs and will result in the loss of a thriving and vibrant community, whilst completely destroying a historic village that dates back to the Domesday Book.

The site that is proposed, is known locally as Barracks Field, and is an historic site and dates from Napoleonic times when soldiers were stationed there. Any development on this site would certainly be of a negative impact and destroy the historic environment permanently.

Recently the planning committee have turned down planning applications in local villages because it would lead to urbanisation.

Surely the same must be said for the proposed developments in Weeley? So why should we be treated differently?

Weeley is a village of approximately 500 houses and currently in this area there has already been planning passed for 57 new properties (some of which have already been built) an increase of over 10% The proposal to build an additional 280 houses (plus possibly another 24 on the Council Office site) in a village of this size would amount to an total increase of some 66%

Is this fair and proportionate?

This proposal, which will benefit only the developers and landowners, would destroy our village and take away productive and much needed farmland, which can never be replaced.

We are a close-knit community in Weeley, with most people choosing to live in the area because we enjoy our rural environment. Such planning proposals for our small village would sentence residents to living constantly alongside grid-locked roads and building sites for many years to come.

Please listen to what the people of Weeley are saying to you.

We have a village school, 2 village shops, a thriving community and open spaces that we call countryside around us, and this is the way the villagers of Weeley like it and hope beyond all hope to keep it.

Pamela A. Dear

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