

Received On

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By Planning Services

Honeypot House
Honeypot Farm
Weeley Heath
Clacton on Sea
Essex CO16 9BJ

The TDC Planning Officer
Tendring District Council Offices
Thorpe Road
Weeley
CO16 9AJ

7 August 2017

Dear Sir

We the undersigned strongly object to the proposed building of 280 new homes: reference Policy SAMU5, development south of Thorpe Road Weeley, for the following reasons:

Such proposals must comply with the Local Plan Draft Publication. Several of the policy references are either in direct contravention of the policy references or would have a negative aspect if adopted. (ref: section two Local Plan (SA)).

Section two Local Plan Document page 1194

Item b 'Employment land' etc – Weeley is a small village and we would question it being considered as a 'viable employment area'. Employment in and around the village is negligible, but is this not common to most villages?

Given that Clacton has high unemployment how could it be considered that Weeley would be any different and any increase in population would surely compound that unemployment rate. Perhaps it is considered that existing Weeley residents will be likely to provide a service industry for incoming residents? Judging by the size and value of the new properties in the village, it would appear that the existing community are fast becoming the poor relations.

The present road network was designed for a small village and not for a large community. We all know that travelling from Weeley, Clacton, Thorpe, Kirby, Frinton, Walton etc, to Colchester/ Ipswich is horrendous and beyond belief. Weeley is the neck of a bottleneck.

Accidents and fatalities are now commonplace. Does the reader think this is acceptable?

More properties will mean many more cars. This is detrimental to the local Plan Policy and against NPPF, Policies TR1a, SD8, CP1 and CP2, with smaller local B feeder roads also being circumvented as they already are, to avoid traffic hold ups especially at peak times and school run times. Our roads are dangerous.

The section of the plan that depicts Weeley as an expanded settlement falsely claims that Weeley has "good strategic transport connections". It is true that there is an unmanned railway station but this is hardly a 'strategic connection' on which to base a large development. This is by no means believable.

Further to this description, is Weeley village now to be known as Weeley expanded settlement? We note that the Oxford English dictionary describes settlement as "a place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community." With this in mind we can only suggest that the planners come and take a proper look at Weeley as it may have been overlooked that there have been people happily living there all along and Weeley has a history, as do other villages throughout area.

Local primary and secondary schools are full. Such environments create pressures on teaching staff and students to achieve against the odds. It is unlikely that a new 56 place primary school will alleviate that situation. We should not be expecting our teachers to 'just cope' and our children's education to suffer as a consequence of others building proposals. You can also add a further 100+ car movements on to the highways.

Items (e) (f) (g) Policy SAMU5 "Proposals must accord" etc
None of this is viable or possible and therefore would be detrimental to many references and clauses within the Local Plan Policy.

The proposed footbridge over the railway line is not a viable option and therefore must be withdrawn. The further side of the bridge would need to be built on private land and the land owner may not allow such building. It is unwise to speculate that this would be acceptable when it might not. Is it that the intention is to spread future development on to more of the green belt?

Policy (part 2.) SP2 Settlement development boundaries) states that there is a "general presumption in favour of new development". Can it be made known from where this general presumption originates because it certainly does not originate from Weeley residents, nor from any of the surrounding villages or beyond. Surely it must be clearly understood that we would not wish such developments on any village. Villages are small communities that form their own boundaries over hundreds of years. The proposal of a housing development on any village is nothing short of the abuse of historical Britain.

Policy (part 2) SP3 Sustainable design states that "all new development should make a positive contribution to the quality of the local environment and protect or enhance local character". Recent development has shown that this

policy is not being adhered to. There has been no improvement to the quality of the environment and village character is neither protected nor enhanced.

Any development within a village will have a negative impact on the local environment and endanger or be detrimental to local character. It is the very nature of villages that they have developed naturally and of their own accord, with no intervention from outside. The importance of this natural development should not be ignored.

Policy HP1 (Improving Health and Wellbeing) We consider that the improved health and wellbeing generated from the proposed plan will be felt by those who will financially benefit from the plan's fruition, those who will happily walk away and leave the indigenous community to deal with the consequences.

There is a great deal of anxiety in Weeley and in surrounding villages and this should not be underestimated or swept aside. Throughout the Tendring area building is already taking place and further proposed plans being scrutinised all of which is akin to the compulsory purchase of residents lives. Villages, one of the smallest units of habitation in Great Britain, are feeling the brunt of the planners. When unnatural changes are forced on a village there is no going back and the effect on the community can be devastating. Towns and cities organically expand, this is their very nature. Villages organically stay small, or else they cease to be villages. If this relentless pursuit of imposing more and more properties on villages in Tendring continues, then Tendring will only be able to boast that it has zero villages within its environs, just a series of ghettos. This will be nothing to feel proud of.

As Weeley residents we have already noted an increase in accidents and fatalities on the roads, exceptional speeding and noise from the bypass, increased noise throughout, persistent emergency vehicles sirens, litter and the dumping of household waste (including the dumping of dead puppies), increased fly tipping (possibly due to another ill-conceived local council restriction of vehicles at the recycling centre). Increased traffic and ever increasing difficulty in travelling locally.

We have noted that the services are overstretched, increased timeframes for appointments, difficulty in finding a dentist, terrible situations at Colchester General Hospital A&E with referrals to Ipswich hospital as an alternative. We read reports of mental health patients being transferred out of the district, care facilities unable to cope, crime rates soaring, drug abuse increasing with drug related crimes an issue.

Importantly, our green spaces are retreating, farmland is shrinking and the green belt rapidly disappearing. Brick, concrete and tarmac are replacing open land, green horizons and the diversity of our natural organic environment. The green spaces are shrinking and with it the privacy and liberty to roam and enjoy. As our communities are suffering, so will our populations of insects, birds and animals. The natural organic cycles that support a healthy environment are already compromised and will be put under further pressure.

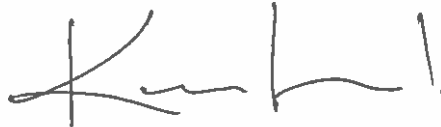
Given the above and the lack of respect shown for the wishes of Weeley residents is it any wonder that those residents are anxious. We would all wish to continue living our lives in the manner to which we are accustomed because our environment and our homes are of great importance to us. We are not being selfish or greedy in wishing to protect our environment, we have already been forced to accept a considerable number of new properties whose design does nothing to enhance the village.

We continue to be threatened and persecuted for the benefit of others. Given the level of value we place on our environment, our privacy, security and safety, it is to be expected that such terrorising translates into depression and ill health. The threat of further building hangs over our village like the Sword of Damocles, please do not underestimate the value we place on our village.

Yours sincerely



Sue Muir



Kevin Lynch