

From: [Genna](#)
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Barnham, Eastergate and Westergate Southern Consortium Planning Application - Objection
Date: 12 May 2021 10:51:22

I am very concerned about the possibility of allowing such a development to be undertaken in this location, and object due to the reasons given below.

Environment:

This area of land has been allocated under The Neighbourhood Plan as a Biodiversity corridor – if it were to be built on this would go against Arun’s own Biodiversity plan, which states:

Through this plan, Arun District Council undertakes:

- not to destroy nor cause a net loss of area of any irreplaceable natural habitat.
- will also enhance wherever possible, the populations of native species in the district
- making sure that our actions have no negative effect, and preferably a positive effect on biodiversity outside the district

This development does not provide a proven net biodiversity gain. It includes the destruction of trees/hedgerows and no consideration has been given to the impact on natural environment including animals and their habitat.

These fields become heavily saturated after periods of rainfall, due to groundwater and surface water ingress. With the addition of further development in these fields there is much greater risk of flooding, the proposed drainage systems need to be sufficient to protect not only to the new homes but to the many existing properties from flooding.

I strongly believe that brown field sites should be developed before destroying green field sites.

The A29 relief road and the proposed development conflicts with the Arun District Local Plan that “Preserves the separate identities and avoids any further physical coalescence of the three villages of Barnham, Eastergate and Westergate through the delivery of green infrastructure. Eastergate and Barnham should be protected from a continuous urban form / coalescence along the north and south aspects of the B2233”. The effect on landscape and the character of area has not been taken into consideration with regard to urban sprawl and the joining up of the local villages by developing the areas between them.

Roads:

There is heavy traffic congestion in this area already, with the average home in the area owning above the national average of 2.3 cars per household – this fact will mean in the

region of another 9,800+ vehicles. The eventual delivery of the A29 relief road is supposedly meant to relieve the pressure on the existing highways network. How can there be any improvement given that there would be an additional 9,800+ road users?

No consideration has been given to the existing residents with regard to the east to west vehicle connection onto Westergate Street. I already have queuing traffic outside of my house throughout the day, because of the amount of traffic backed up by the level crossing, now it is proposed to give the vehicles from over 4,000 new properties the opportunity to exit this development onto Westergate Street close to my property and to Aldingbourne Primary school. The safety of this proposed exit route needs to be taken into consideration.

The development of the new A29 should be completed before building any houses. Building 1,250 houses without connecting the new A29 to the South means our local road network (principally the B2233 Barnham Roads and the A29 through Aldingbourne) will have approximately 10,000 more care journeys per day, substantially worsening air pollution. WSCC already confirms that significant delays and congestion occur at peak times at the War Memorial junction and the Woodgate Level Crossing. Without the new A29 there will be chaos on Westergate Street and the B2233 Barnham Road.

The BEW Statigic Allocation was initially predicted on improving Bognor's economic performance by improving the A29 Bognor to A27 at Fontwell. ADC/WSCC/Developers must deliver the whole of the proposed A29 realignment end to end before the housing is developed.

Facilities:

The sewage network is already at capacity. Sewerage systems already need upgrading to deal with existing problems, before further houses are built.

Medical facilities and access to GP surgeries needs to be improved before more houses are built. In terms of local services, both the Croft Surgery is already at capacity, meaning that the entirety of local residents will be impacted due to having more difficulty when making appointments to see their GP.

School places need to be provided, especially at Primary level, before additional housing is built.

New community facilities need to be developed by upgrading and extending existing facilities before building new ones.

I believe that a freeze on further house building is needed until a new sustainable housing figure is agreed which truly represents the housing need in Arun and the infrastructure is in place.

The scale of housing for Arun approved at the Examination in Public (EiP) of the Local Plan was based on calculations, which our MP Andrew Griffith called a rogue algorithm in Parliament in August 2020. That rogue algorithm has not yet been corrected by

Government.

At the EIP Parish Councils pointed out the housing figure was unattainable. The number of houses required has expanded considerably since the Local plan set out a strategic Allocation at BEW of 3,000 and the target now is 4,000 houses!

The Lichfield's consultation represents 1,250 homes and is one of a series of applications. There is a further 850+ to come this year. These applications on top of 1,170+ inbuilt planning permissions. Just these developments alone will nearly double the size of Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate.

The existing infrastructure cannot accommodate this level of housing development. Key infrastructure should be provided ahead of development, not once development is completed. If this is not achieved, then the lives of local people will be made substantially worse.

Overall there a number of factors that will adversely affect nature, the residents and neighbourhood if this development is allowed and I hope that you will take these comments on board when making the decision.

Genna Freeborn

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