

From:MP Correspondence

Sent:18 Jun 2020 14:57:38 +0100

To:Planning Comments

Subject:FW: Rob Jarman, Planning Application for Land near Oakapple Lane (20/501773/Full)

Hi,

Could you please note the below from Helen Grant for 20/501773/Full.

Many thanks and kind regards

Louise Barker

Executive Support Officer to Stephen McGinnes, Director of Mid Kent Services

John Littlemore, Head of Housing and Community Services

John Foster, Head of Regeneration and Economic Development

Sheila Coburn, Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Service

Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ

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From: GRANT, Helen <helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk>

Sent: 18 June 2020 13:39

To: MP Correspondence <MPCorrespondence@Maidstone.gov.uk>

Cc: GRANT, Helen <helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk>

Subject: FAO: Rob Jarman, Planning Application for Land near Oakapple Lane (20/501773/Full)

Dear Rob

I write to express my deep concern about and opposition to the proposed development on Barming Peafield (Planning application 20/501773/Full).

For many of my constituents the most serious disagreement they have with the proposed development is that Broomshaw Road has been highlighted as a secondary access road to the site. Constituents, and particularly residents on the neighbouring roads, are rightly concerned that this would prompt the access road to be used as a 'rat run' between Hermitage Lane and Tonbridge Road and have an extremely negative impact on the quality of their life.

In addition to the above, I share the substantial concerns local residents have about the impact this development would have upon the local road infrastructure. For most people in Maidstone it is simply unconscionable that further development around Hermitage Lane is even being considered. These proposals would only serve to worsen congestion in the area; which is already at a crippling level. The constant gridlock and delays in this area are already having a debilitating impact on the quality of life of people who have to use the road on a daily basis and this would only be made worse should this proposal be approved in its current form.

Furthermore, I am also concerned about the impact the proposed development will have on other critical infrastructure in the West of Maidstone. School places in Maidstone are already overstretched. Many local schools are in the process of expanding to meet the existing need with the new schools which are being built to provide the places required having fallen behind schedule. This development would undoubtedly only serve to increase demand for school places. Furthermore, the new development would also place further pressure on local GP surgeries; which is a particularly sensitive concern in this part of Kent.

Finally, I am deeply concerned that this development represents a further reduction of the precious green spaces in our community. The Peafield is a much loved green space which is used for exercise by many

people from across this part of Maidstone. To lose such an asset to the community would be a real shame. Furthermore, this development would lead to a further infringement on the crucially important rural space between the urban conurbations of Maidstone and Malling which is being continuously eroded by housing development to the detriment of the unique nature of both communities.

I very much hope that for all of the above reasons these proposals will be rejected. However, in the event that councillors chose to approve, I would urge them to require both increased mitigation for the impact on local infrastructure, particularly on the roads around Hermitage Lane, and changes to the access to the development. I would be grateful if my correspondence could be given due consideration in the planning process and be published on the Maidstone Borough Council Planning Portal.

Very best wishes

Hele



Member of Parliament for Maidstone and The Weald

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Everyone has a role to play in helping to control the virus by staying alert and following the rules. For information on coronavirus visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus>

If you want to see what I am up to in and around Maidstone and the Weald or in Parliament, why not follow me on Twitter? To follow me on Twitter please do click on the following link:

<https://twitter.com/HelenGrantMP>

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