

**Closing observations of the Fareham Society on appeals
APP/A/1720/W/20/3252180 and 3252185 – Newgate Lane, Fareham**

I have little to say in closing with the Society having made a very full statement of its objections by letter of 5th July 2020 supplemented by my later observations to the Inquiry.

I would like, however, to stress the importance the Society places on the harm we have identified on: the adverse impact of the proposals on the objectives of the Strategic Gap and on the character and appearance of the area; and the poor accessibility to facilities given that there would be only one footpath link to Bridgemary and a notably poor one at that. On the latter point the importance of siting development in locations that would encourage accessibility by foot for residents meeting their day-to-day needs should not be underestimated. If you have not already undertaken the walk on Brookers Lane east of Newgate Lane East, which would form part of the link between Bridgemary and the sites, we would urge that you do so.

The Council's decision to refuse these 2 applications was greatly welcomed in the support that it gave to all the matters that we consider of such great importance.

I note the evidence given yesterday for the appellants on sites on which permission has been granted by the Council for housing outside Policy boundaries. However, no two applications are the same and decisions stand to be considered on the individual merits of the case.

Whilst fully understating the advantages of the additional housing proposed there is, in light of the evidence given, no doubt that the harm found on the two applications before you would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits in the terms outlined in the NPPF.

Thank you for hearing our case and closing observations.