

STATEMENT TO REJECT PLANNING APPLICATION APPEAL
P/20/0522/FP

Good afternoon, My name is Pal Hayre, I am the County Councillor for the Crofton Division of Fareham and the ward Councillor for Stubbington where I have resided for 25 years and know the area well. Madam I submit this statement for you to dismiss the planning application appeal for the development of 206 dwellings on the parcel of land to the east of Crofton Cemetery and west of Peak Lane for many reasons.

Fareham Borough Council planning report confirms 168 letters of objection regarding the proposed application and only 2 in support which clearly indicates residents against this proposal. I won't go into all the reasons for rejecting the appeal but would like to highlight a few.

Madam, having recently been appointed as the assistant lead member for children's services and education I can confirm the local schools are already at full capacity. Only recently a family moved into the area to find the local Secondary school, Crofton was unable to accommodate their child. There is a waiting list for Crofton Hammond primary school and Crofton Anne Dale primary is almost full. I understand Persimmon like most developers would be prepared to contribute to the local schools but realistically is that really enough long term with a large development? We have a Special Education Needs school, Baycroft in Stubbington which cannot accommodate any more students, what if any of the families moving into the new proposed development need SEN requirements where would we send them, further afield or out of County which means more travel, cost, time and impact on mental health.

Stubbington Medical Practice.

Madam, there is only one doctor's surgery in Stubbington which serves Stubbington and Hill Head. Whilst the medical care is

excellent the appointment times are long waits, the building is outdated and there is lack of car parking. The staff and doctors are exhausted, They simply cannot meet demand at the moment how will they manage with further development.

Old Crofton Church

What about the church of St Edmunds known as the old crofton church, a listed grade 2 building and the beautiful listed Manor House, the proposed development will change the character of these. The church built in 878, the oldest building in the area is a vital part of Stubbington's history as mentioned in the doomsday book. The residents of stubbington would like to preserve their long standing history. Madam, there are some areas, places and characteristics which must be preserved at all costs.

The Crofton Cemetery added in 1905 on Oakcroft Lane attached to the old crofton church will be impacted by the proximity and size of the proposed development. A hedgerow dividing the development from the cemetery is hardly a border or fair division. There will be no privacy. This would disrupt the tranquillity of the cemetery. I know many people who visit the cemetery regularly to tidy up the graves of their loved ones, have some peace, lay flowers and spend time in thought and prayer. The proposed development will generate noise, litter, traffic and pollution.

Madam, I would like to say a few words about road safety along Oakcroft lane. Now Oakcroft Lane is a tree lined narrow windy country lane approached via Ranvilles Lane in one direction and Peak Lane the other end. The lane is full of character. With the narrowness of the lane it is not designed to take much traffic. At present driving along the lane can be tricky and dangerous especially with the bends. Some of my residents and I have already witnessed some near misses with large or speedy vehicles. The proposed development will bring extra vehicles and traffic onto Oakcroft Lane.

There is no pavement on the lane making it difficult and dangerous for both cyclists and pedestrians given that we are promoting active travel in the area.

The traffic in and around Stubbington is already at a peak, with this development the traffic will increase even further. The proximity site is not within easy walking distance and the cycle lanes need much improvement. There is an irregular bus service in the area and improving bus stops will not encourage people to travel by bus. Currently Hampshire County Council subsidise some of the buses in the area.

Madam, Peak Lane is a busy road already, with extra vehicles accessing the road will add further delays and have an adverse impact on the Stubbington By Pass which was not designed to accommodate housing developments but to ease traffic to and from the Gosport Peninsula.

The area in question has always been a strategic gap. The planning application was refused on a number of reasons one being that the application does not meet policy CS14 the report clarifies the site is outside of the defined urban settlement boundary of Stubbington and Hill Head.

In conclusion madam please do not fall for the shortage of the 5 year housing land supply as the risks of this proposed development would outweigh the benefits. Let's not build houses for the sake of it let's build them where the infrastructure is in place.

Thank you

Cllr Pal Hayre