

FUNTLEY APPEAL. Tuesday 8th February 2022

Deputation by Cllr Mrs Pamela Bryant and Cllr Mrs Louise Clubley.

Fareham North Ward Councillors.

Thank you for allowing me to speak today. I am speaking on behalf of both ward Councillors to save time and repetition; we also have problems with echoing due to working in proximity. However, Cllr Mrs Clubley and I have continuously spoken at all the Councils Planning meetings objecting to these applications on what we consider are very valid reasons. Today, we wish to support and speak on behalf of the many of the residents who have contacted us with their objections and members of the Funtley Village Society.

As a lifelong resident of North Fareham and longstanding Councillor, I was made aware of proposals by the landowner for this site for many years, although it was never formally requested, but in the past, it was considered totally unsuitable for housing, due to access from the site heading straight onto the lane and within the countryside, abutting the natural woodland, and most importantly the topography of the land, which is notorious for flooding issues when there is heavy rainfall for water flowing down into the lower properties of the village, there is often considerable flooding issues arising. In fact, residents have had to move out on occasions.

As a little background information, as you have not been able to visit Funtley, is a unique village on the edge of Fareham, sitting in the Upper Meon Valley with its sensitive landscape, and a rural character supported by just a single road going through the village, which originally had a few rows of small, terraced dwellings, to house the workers at the brickworks where the famous Fareham Red clay was sourced, and the bricks made. Amongst the notable buildings using the 'Fareham Reds' is the Royal Albert Hall.

After the brickworks closed, the site was left dormant for many years, until in the early 1990's the site became new developments, more than doubling the number of residents within the village in the roads known as Lakeside and The Waters. These new dwellings brought significant traffic from the side roads onto the one road through the village.

Ten years later, following the closure of the abattoir, another development of Roebuck Avenue and Stag Way brought a further 100 dwellings to the village, this

has further increased the traffic through the village, with all movements having to use this one country lane.

As a lifelong resident and longstanding Councillor, I have been aware of proposals by the landowner for this site for many years, but in the past, it has been considered totally unsuitable for housing, due to access from the site heading straight onto the lane and within the countryside, abutting the natural woodland, and most importantly the topography of the land, which is notorious for flooding issues when there is heavy rainfall for water flowing down into the lower properties of the village, there is often considerable flooding issues arising. In fact, residents have had to move out on occasions.

While the new developments in past years have had a considerable effect on traffic in recent years, Funtley is still a quiet and peaceful village with the added charm and appeal sitting on the edge of Fareham in the countryside. In future years the new village of Welborne will abut the northern side of the village and whilst Welborne has been a contentious addition, the village community have had to accept the long term affects it will bring, with the loss of delightful views of the countryside, but hopefully a buffer between the two villages will alleviate too many issues.

For this application site, 55 new dwellings on this extremely steep slope has previously been approved despite it being outside the urban boundary, and being the last piece of the countryside in the village is against policy CS2, it also adversely affects the landscape character as stated in CS14. However, if the numbers are increased and more density building allowed, it will completely ruin the character of this countryside location. The idea of a further 70 dwellings within this area would certainly have an unacceptable environmental, amenity and traffic impact, hence not complying with policy DSP40.

The application to increase the number of dwellings to 125, will provide small and unacceptable dwellings totally out of character to this area, a major problem will be parking within the development, looking at possible layouts, they appear to be very cramp areas, this would most certainly be a problem not only to residents, but delivery vans which have escalated in numbers in recent times, also waste collection trucks and most importantly, emergency services. There are also reservations regarding the site access junction, as it appears to have insufficient visibility splays and we do have considerable concerns regarding highway safety,

so would seek to have a reduction in the speed limit. The bus turn around doesn't appear to have sufficient space, although the bus that County Councillor Peter was able to get funding to recommence last year, may not receive further funding at the end of the years contract as the passenger take up has been poor and I understand the service is not running as regularly now.

local shop incorporated. Any prospect of a community facility would be a most welcome addition. It is something that as local Councillors we have been looking to provide in the ward for many years, but sadly there has never been a suitable piece of land available for the Council to consider. It is a well-known fact that parts of the borough where there is a community building, residents have been brought together. Whilst the Country Park would be an attract addition, the appellant appears to have regard for walking and cycling, but little regard for the extremely steep incline which will deter many residents from being able to use the path through to the deviation line going to the locals schools and to the Hill Park area safely as no lighting has been included. Somehow no consideration appears to be given to health and safety.

In conclusion,

This application should certainly not be considered favorably for the following reasons.

125 dwellings would be overdevelopment and out of character to the countryside location which is outside the urban boundary.

Highways and additional traffic accessing the narrow lane, with the single file bridges at either end will inevitably cause road rage at times.

If this application for up to 125 houses is allowed, it will be the straw that broke the camel's back. Thank you for allowing us to speak today. We hope our comments will be useful.

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