

P/22/0165/oa

Statement for the Fareham Society on appeal 375 dwellings off Newgate Lane

My observations are on behalf of the Fareham Society, a long-established amenity Society covering the District of Fareham.

Our concerns remained as outlined in our letter to the Council of 6th Feb. 2022, which you have had the opportunity to read.

On the detailed point we have raised on the harm to the Strategic Gap, which follow closely those raised by the Council, I would just add the vital role that this Gap, along with others, plays. It has over many years been essential in preventing an unacceptable coalescence of settlements which, in this area of high development pressure, would have given rise to an unsightly urban sprawl over much of the District. The Society is pleased to note the support given to these Gaps, and in particular to the Gap in question in this case, in the various study's referred to in our letter. We would urge that you give these considerations the greatest weight. In our view they clearly outweigh any advantages of the proposal in terms, for example of housing numbers, especially given the advanced stage of the Local Plan. The harm to the Gap that would be caused by development of this scale and in the location would simply be too great.

Whilst supporting the Council on many aspects of this case we are disappointed that they have not raised the highway impacts, set out in our letter, on Newgate Lane East. We note that our concerns on the free flow of traffic on this road are also well set out by "Lee Residents" in their statement on this appeal. Poor traffic links between Fareham and Gosport have for many years many years been a major issue and Newgate Lane East is an important component in remedying this. It is essential therefore not to impede the free flow of traffic on this road by way of the additional traffic and access upon it that would arise from this proposal. As part of your site visit we urge that you take some time to see the substantial current traffic flow on Newgate Lane East to assist your view on this matter.

Thankyou for hearing from us today. Our attendance at this Inquiry is evidence of our substantial objection to this application given the harm it would cause.