

Fareham Society deputation on P/23/1175/RM and P/23/1178/RM works to Knowle Road

The Fareham Society's main concern on this application is that this proposal would not meet the objective set out in the the *Buckland Fact Sheet 10 November 2023* which says that over time Knowle Road "will change from an open road to more of a tree lined avenue, keeping the pedestrian and cycle route and green verges". To be visually effective this would require a wider verge than shown in this proposal in order to provide a feeling of spaciousness and allow for substantial trees to be planted without impinging on the new houses.

The Society has raised strong concerns on the loss of planting along Knowle Road and the lack of a clear indication of Buckland's intentions on this, having regard to both visual and ecological considerations. However, it is noted that Hampshire County Council Ecology have no concerns on the loss of planting along Knowle Road given the extent of planting that would be provided elsewhere. This lessens our concern to some degree but with the important caveat that the Council should seek a commitment from Buckland that loss of vegetation to the south of Knowle Road, including the copse, would not take place until required by the future housing to the south.

Our initial concerns on highway safety, with regard to housing fronting Knowle Road, are now largely overcome given the proposed 30mph limit. However, there is an important caveat to this. The imposition of this speed limit would require a Road Traffic Order (RTA). As there is no guarantee of it being made, any approval of this reserved matters application should be subject to the RTA being in place.