

STATEMENT TO THE PLANNING INSPECTOR

Appeal no: 260817 Denhams Corner

I am Nicholas Fitzgerald of [REDACTED] located [REDACTED] open fields to the proposed site and we are shown on the developers map.

I strongly oppose the appeal and urge you to dismiss it.

Eastleigh B.C Durley Parish Council and around 90 local residents of a small village have comprehensibly made a case as to why this application and subsequent appeal should be denied. I strongly support those findings

There are quite literally thousands of pages of carefully constructed reasons articulated. I would like to just add a few further insights.

I can find no one other than the developer, and the professional team they have assembled who are in favour. No one speaking out that it is positive.

A whole community including our elected representatives, EBC, Durley and Horton Heath Parish councils, Natural England, The Highways agency even the Ramblers association to name but a few are against.

It is a wholly unsuitable and unsustainable site and proposal in contravention of a shopping list of planning policies well documented to date.

The land is not earmarked for development for good reason, the plan is to build a dense urban estate where the only ways in and out are either through a dark ancient forest onto a busy 40 mph Botley road with minimal footpath on one side, Or to exit onto an unlit Snakemoor lane, a dangerous unlit twisty and narrow 40mph road with no pavements. We ourselves navigate joining Snakemoor Lane with trepidation and not insignificant risk. I dread the thought of vulnerable children walking and cycling these even busier routes. A simple walk to the shops, schools,

etc. along fast unlit country roads or dark woodland by design is unimaginable to me.

The proposed 'Transport Hub' is an empty marketing ploy, cycling facilities to encourage a locally highly dangerous option? My own grown children are environmentally conscious, have tried and failed to find a way to commute to work in Southampton. The dangerous walk to a bus stop, the infrequent occasional bus taking two hours plus is a non starter, meaning the inevitable car dependence or families marooned. The primary and secondary schools, dentists and surgeries are hugely oversubscribed described as dangerous levels already by HCC leaving families to travel further afield from a remote housing estate.

Our MP suggested not flushing the toilet or emptying a bath during heavy rain to reduce the risk of sewers continuing to overflow into villagers homes with Southern Water forced to release raw sewerage into the river at Durley on several occasions but 150 more families would be a disaster in this regard.

I could but won't go on, we all know the negative impact this urbanisation would have on the local community, ancient woodland and abundant rare wildlife we see daily.

I think the Inspector who in 2022 backed EBC in denying a previous attempt at Denhams Corner for five houses summed it up beautifully:

"The proposals represent an unjustified form of development within an area of designated countryside which, owing to its scale, design and siting and the associated loss of existing mature trees and vegetation, would have an unacceptably harmful and urbanising impact on the character of the site and immediate surrounding area.

Surely those comments are doubly poignant today.

I urge the inspector to deny this appeal for all the right reasons.