

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Planning Policy](#)
Subject: Comments on Test Valley Borough Council Draft Local Plan 2040 - Velmore Farm Valley Park
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Comments on Test Valley Borough Council Draft Local Plan 2040.

Specifically, the **Velmore Farm Valley Park site for 1070 homes** section.

I understand the general need for new housing, I know people who are trying to get onto the housing ladder BUT the plan for Velmore Farm seems to be ill conceived with no work done in looking at the area, the infrastructure, and the effect it will have on existing residents.

It just looks as if you spotted a bit of land at the very edge of Test Valley butting up to Eastleigh and Southampton, thought great, we can put over 1000 houses in a plot that size and let the neighbouring boroughs sort out the mess that follows.

I went to the public exhibition at the Valley Park community centre on 28th February and spoke to some of your representatives. I mentioned such things as the flooding and the traffic, and two of them stated that they were important points, and I should put them in my comments. If any sort of preparatory work had been done before the local plan was issued, then you would have known about this and come up with alternative plans or at least acknowledged the problems and stated how they would be mitigated.

As I understand it you didn't even bother to consult the local parish councillors who would have taken one look at the plan and pointed out the problems straight away and saved you wasting time (mine and your staff) and money producing an inadequate proposal.

Flooding

This area floods. The School Lane/Templars way roundabout only need a bit of rain before it is under several inches of water. With so many houses being built this problem will become worse. Where will the rainwater go if most of the soak away area is covered in concrete? Monks Brook flows through much of Valley park which can flood all the way back to the Monks Brook pub in Hursley road. The proposal needs to detail how on earth this will be mitigated so the rest of us don't end up paddling. The new houses would be fine as they are on higher ground!

Traffic

The traffic in this area for the school run in the morning and between 4pm and 6.30pm is horrendous. Queues from Knightwood road and School Lane on to Templars way, over the Asda roundabout down Chestnut Avenue and through Stonham way to the motorway can be solid and it's not a lot better the rest of the time and if there is a problem on the motorway its even worse. Putting an extra 2000 cars into the area is only going to make things worse and I was not impressed by your representative that just laughed and said it only a tiny increase in the traffic numbers. I can't tell you who this was as they all had their lanyards so you couldn't see their names.

Schools

The plan only mentions that school provision will be a 1.5 class entry primary school on the site. It does not state that this will be built before the houses to accommodate children as they move in. Detailed information on how this will be done is required otherwise people who have lived in Valley Park for years will

have their children pushed out from the local school (St Francis) to others further away as the new homes will be nearer than many of the current residents. This happened 25 years ago when you built the Skyswood estate.

There is also no mention of a new senior school, where are you expecting those pupils to go?

Doctors and Dentists

The plan states that there is no need to provide additional Doctors or Dentist in the new development as there are sufficient in the surrounding boroughs. It takes 4 to 6 weeks to get a routine Doctors appointment in Valley Park and there are no NHS Dentists taking on new people, so this is just not true, the area is currently struggling. It was not helpful to be told by one of your representatives 'well it's like that everywhere' as though it just didn't matter.

The whole Valmore Farm part of the plan comes across as though Test Valley Borough Council just does not care about the outer parts of their borough. The whole thing needs to be looked at and given more thought. It must demonstrate that the real need for new homes is actually in this area rather than say Stockbridge or Greatley in the middle of the borough and that the major problems mentioned above can be solved.

Kim Woods

