From:
To: Planning Policy

Subject: Feedback on draft local plan 2040 consultation - Velmore Farm development

Date: 07 March 2024 11:22:15

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I would like to express my deepest concerns about the proposed development of Velmore Farm for 1070 new houses and an employment site.

This plan will put heavy demand on already overstretched services in the area and the local roads which are frequently overwhelmed with the existing volume of traffic, throughout the day especially mornings and evenings.

The new development would mean up to 2000 more vehicles with significant congestion at peak times. The queues are already causing lengthy delays and increased pollution.

Local health services doctors and dentists are at capacity and a six week wait for a doctor's appointment is quite normal and NHS dentists are full. The needs of a further 2000 patients will not be able to be met.

We already suffer significant flooding in and around the area immediately adjacent to the proposed building site, especially around School Lane and the roundabout where it joins Templars Way. This was seen earlier this week (w/c 4 March) when the roundabout was under water in the morning on Tuesday and still remains very wet on Thursday. Parts of School Lane were also impassable in recent weeks after heavy rain and at least one car became stranded in the flood water. The land in the area is well known to be of heavy clay. More building will exacerbate these already serious problems.

I have lived in the area for more than 25 years and have already seen the wildlife, especially woodland and garden bird population decrease substantially. This development would see us lose more countryside – meaning a loss of habitat, green space and biodiversity.

The proposal is also a breach of the Local Gap and will effectively link up North Baddesley, Valley Park and Chilworth.

In short, this proposal is highly unsuitable for an area which is already overpopulated and significantly under-resourced in terms of local services since the development of Knightwood.

I would like you to log my opposition to this.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Beaton



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