

18th February 2024

Dear Chief Planning Officer,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the proposal in the Local Plan to build a large number of houses at Velmore Farm.

There are a number of issues that I think will be exacerbated by significant building in the Velmore Farm area.

Shortage of Primary School places in Valley Park and Knightwood has often been an issue in recent years, with children from St Francis area travelling to Knightwood or Nightingale. Although demand for places has fallen in the past 2 years, this is likely to grow again, with recent births at existing homes in this area leading to a shortage. I presume the proposed development will include family homes, which would be irresponsible without school places.


Like many areas getting to see a GP or finding an NHS dentist is a challenge. Our local surgery is very good in responding to emergencies but for other appointments and reviews there are delays. Where will the residents of the proposed development go for medical and dental care?

Although not serious compared with some areas where houses have been flooded, there is regular flooding on School Lane and Templars Way after persistent rain. This does not need to be particularly heavy and flooding of the road has occurred at least 4 times this year and we are only half way through February. Building on adjacent fields to Templars Way is not only likely to reduce the natural scope for rainfall soaking into the ground but exacerbate the existing problems. Has this been considered and what solutions are proposed.

Traffic is already very busy at peak times on Castle Lane, Templars Way, School Lane and the Asda Roundabout. Whilst some of these roads are not in Test Valley any development by Test Valley must consider the impact on Test Valley residents and neighbouring communities. The route via Romsey, Castle Lane and Templars Way is often used for diversions when the nearby M27 and/or M3 are restricted. When this happens, it can create significant delays and congestion. Many houses in Valley Park have 2 or 3 cars and one can presume this will be the case with any new development. Has the increased traffic from a major new development been considered and has any consideration been given by The Council's Local Health Officer on impacts on air pollution?

Please can you ensure the above objections and reasons are raised as part of the consideration of the plan. I would also like to be kept informed as the Local Plan is considered.

Yours sincerely,



David Gurr

cc Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP

Cllr Alan Dowden