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To: [Planning Policy](#)
Subject: LOCAL PLAN 2040
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I am writing opposing the above plan and its proposal at Velmore Farm, in its current form.

I have lived in Chandlers Ford most of my life (since 1964), currently living in Valley Park. Chandlers Ford is a small town on the border between Test Valley and Eastleigh Borough councils, and over the years both councils have built extensively on their parts of the local countryside.

I have numerous concerns with putting 1070 homes and other employment structures on this land.

LOCAL GAP

The area being earmarked for so many houses is an important open space between Chandlers Ford and Southampton, with a good amount of trees and grassland which is the lungs of the area. The M3 and M27 both pass close to this area, with vehicles spewing out carbon dioxide into the air at an alarming rate. This open area is vital for nature to absorb the carbon and releasing oxygen to improve the air quality for everyone in the wider area. The local woodlands need the extra help this farmland gives. This is part of why local gaps between towns and villages should never be removed by over building.

FLOODING

I am very concerning about the water draining off the fields already, and this will only get worse if this quantity of housing is put on the site. The whole site is considerably higher than the local roads so the water has nowhere else to go. Rain water regularly floods the roundabout at Templars way /School Lane and takes months to drain away, leaving mud around the roundabout. This flooding also affects School Lane with water running across the road between the roundabout and Castle Lane, and again further along School Lane the road has regularly flooded right across the road for decades. Even with the damaged underground pipes being repaired (hopefully sometime soon) they were not built to cope with the amount of rain water we now regularly get. The substrata in the area is clay based so does not drain well. When Knightwood Park was built there were balancing ponds put in place to help reduce the effects of the flooding, but these aren't always enough as our weather patterns are changing. To put any housing on Velmore Farm would require a large area set aside for similar balancing ponds and with more adequate drainage to local rivers as well.

TRAFFIC

The plans show one main entrance to the proposed new estate, coming from the roundabout at Templars Way / School Lane. As mentioned above, this roundabout floods on a regular basis, leaving mud across the whole road and roundabout. With 1070 houses intended for this site this will, over the following few years, lead to nearly 3000 vehicles wanting to get in and out of the estate and onto local roads. Some of these vehicles will be residents but quite a few will be vans and lorries delivering to the new homes. This whole aspect will make living there a far less enticing experience. The local roads become gridlocked every day as it is, with traffic trying to move through the area. As soon as an incident occurs on either of the local motorways this just gets worse, and can regularly cause hold ups lasting over half an hour. This leads to frayed tempers and road rage - we see it regularly with the amount of traffic already accessing the local infrastructure. When you then add the flooding from surface water this again exasperates the whole situation even further.

The whole infrastructure currently in place needs to be assessed taking into account the number of new estates being built by Test Valley and Eastleigh borough councils in the wider local area. Councils say that people will live and work in a local area but that is not mainly true. Many people cannot afford to live near where they work, or people in the households may work in opposite directions. Adding this many more houses to an already over busy road system will make it much worse. This then impacts of people's health, wellbeing and quality of life.

HEALTH SERVICES

Currently there are not enough doctors and dental surgeries in the wider area to accommodate the existing

residents. When Brownhill surgery closed a few years ago the remaining surgeries struggled to take on the patients who then needed a new surgery. This has not become any better, in fact it's now worse as more housing is built. Dental surgeries are even worse. There are simply not enough NHS dentists, in Hampshire let alone are local area, to look after all the residents. And many people cannot afford private health care or dentists.

ROMAN ROAD

There is a Roman road running straight through the Velmore farm fields. Our local parish council had to remove a small orchard that was planted along this same road, between Thirlstane Firs and Salcombe Close, so surely the length through the proposed new estate cannot and must not be built on in any way either. When Knightwood was built a Roman settlement site was built on.

OTHER CONCERNS

As well as the Roman road there are also two lines of overhead pylons running across the proposed site. Building homes under and near such pylons is not recommended by government. Due to the voltage through these cables they cannot be ideally relocated underground, and this would not be advisable under housing. These are national grid pylons not just supplying local areas.

Southern Water say they are struggling to treat the grey water reaching their treatment plants in this area as it is. Adding another 1070 homes will make this worse, and increase the chances of untreated sewage reaching local rivers and the sea, impacting people's health.

This number of houses has to also impact the ability to accommodate children in local schools in both primary and secondary level, and then on at college level. There are not enough places in the local schools at any age to do this at the moment.

Because this new development is situated next to Eastleigh local economy boosts are much less likely to be appreciated by Test Valley businesses. People will tend towards Eastleigh and Southampton rather than Romsey.

I am not a NIMBY - we bought a house in Valley Park when the estate was being built. I appreciate that we need more housing but extending south of Chandlers Ford for this many houses is not the answer. Halving the number of houses, without increasing commercial structures, would be a better move. There must be brown fill sites that can be used rather than reducing our green sites to this extent. Using brown fill sites would also mean that infrastructure, clean & waste water pipes, local services, schools, doctors and dentist are already in place and therefore reduce overall costs to everyone.

If you still intend to allow building on this site, despite local concerns, please make sure that adequate infrastructure is in place first, as well as surface water drainage. Ideally this would remain active farm land as we need more food to be locally produced as our population grows.

REMEMBER

You do not have to let the use change from agricultural to residential housing.