

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Planning Policy](#)
Subject: Comments on Draft Local Plan 2040
Date: 27 March 2024 14:52:54

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have read with interest the latest draft of the Test Valley Local Plan 2040 (Current Stage: Regulation 18 Stage 2 (2024) which is currently published on the Test Valley web site. I wish to make comments on the proposal described in the Southern Test Valley element to allocate land to the south of Ganger Farm in east Romsey for the provision of 340 new homes.

As you will know, before the release of the draft plan there was already a planning application to build 309 houses on this site (reference: 23/00964/OUTS). To date this application has received in excess of 100 objections from local residents and a strong objection from the Romsey Town Council Planning committee on 25th January of this year just 2 weeks before this draft proposal was released. The comment being bandied was that the application was purely speculative and should be refused. I find it bizarre that members of the Romsey planning committee were apparently not party to the decision to allocate the land for houses in East Romsey in this Draft Local Plan. It is ironic that in the summary pre-amble on the Test Valley Website includes the words:

“A significant level of development is already underway in both North and South Test Valley to meet these needs however new sites are required to be allocated to ensure we meet our needs and reduce the risk of speculative development.”

Apparently now this the 23/00964/OUTS application has lost its ‘speculative’ nature and has been given credence with this draft plan.

As a resident of Hunters Crescent for over thirty years I have seen the character of the local area change from a quiet semi-rural area to something that now borders on an urban sprawl. Via the developments at Abbottswood, Kings Chase and the current development at Wisteria Gate, Braishfield Road, over 1200 houses have been added to the immediate local area. The local residents have already had to endure thirteen years of the noise, traffic and additional pollution associated with this development and the associated degradation of quality of life. The building of yet another 340 homes in this area with many more years of disruption seems somewhat unfair.

The objections around application 23/00964/OUTS focus significantly around the apparent ‘creaking at the seams’ of existing supporting infrastructure for the existing housing in the area. Examples including:

- The inability for Southern Water to supply Abbottswood consistently with potable water without resorting to the supply through road tankers (with the resultant environmental impact) and reducing water pressure in the rest of the area to make non-pumped showers unusable
- Potential to generate upwards of an additional 2000 car journeys per day in the local area putting further strain of the already crumbling local road network and brings additional safety risks to pedestrians.
- Comments from Southern Water that this development would pose a risk of flooding and

the sewage system in place in Romsey could not handle the flows

- Inadequate parking at local shopping facilities
- The three NHS GP practices indicate that they would not be able to support the additional patient load without an additional investment of over £240k (based on the 340 count figure)

Apart from the statement of a command from central government to build “11,000 homes” I find it impossible to glean from the document what has changed or is likely to change in the economy of Romsey and its immediate area to justify even more large scale housing development. One can only assume that the demand emanates from outside the area and as such, in these days of concern for the impact of excessive journeys on climate change, the demand should surely be addressed close to its source.

Given the plethora of valid infrastructure concerns already raised one would expect these to all be addressed in the next version of this draft plan should this proposed allocation of land move forward.

Yours faithfully,

Alan Perkins

Resident of Hunters Crescent Romsey