

Planning Policy and Economic Development
Test Valley Borough Council
Beech Hurst
Weyhill Road
ANDOVER
SP10 3AJ

Derek Smith

28/03/24

DRAFT LOCAL PLAN 2040

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to outline planning application for the erection of up to 1070 residential dwellings and 2.2 hectares for employment use on the Velmore Farm land adjacent Templers Way.

As a resident of Valley Park I strongly oppose the proposed development on the following grounds:

- 1) It is contrary to the previously adopted TVBC Local Plan providing a strategic gap in the beautiful countryside between Valley Park and Chilworth and North Baddesley.
- 2) The distinct physical and visual separation between settlements in the area will be diminished and set a strong precedent to other developers.
- 3) It is very obvious and cynical that the plan includes a large area of plantation to screen the few residents of Chilworth adjacent the site from the proposed development, whilst showing nothing to shield the residents of Valley Park from this massive development.
- 4) The increased traffic along Templers Way due to another 2000+ cars from residents plus the traffic ins and outs from the proposed 2.2 hectares of employment land will cause huge traffic problems in the immediate and surrounding area with much larger tailbacks at peak times.
- 5) Facilities are already stretched for existing residents with schools and medical centres at capacity. Parking at these facilities is overflowing on many occasions and also parking at local shops is at capacity.
- 6) There are several other issues which should be considered before the plan is finalised including: the placing of power cables, currently on pylons, underground as per Government Guidelines; surface water flooding due to run off from Velmore Farm fields which will be increased with all this proposed development in conjunction with the changing climate.

In conclusion I understand that TVBC has to find and use available land to fulfil its obligations to building homes in the area, but not at the cost of the quality of life for existing residents due to the ongoing loss of green space and the inevitable stress and frustration that increased traffic congestion will cause.

TVBC should seriously consider a much-reduced number of houses including, better access to/from local facilities and major routes around Valley Park and should provide a comparable amount of screening for the residents of Valley Park as proposed for a dozen or so large houses in Chilworth.

Yours Sincerely

Derek Smith