

#299

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, April 01, 2024 8:53:11 PM
Last Modified: Monday, April 01, 2024 10:03:31 PM
Time Spent: 01:10:19
IP Address: [REDACTED]

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Q1

Title Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Other(please state)*

Mrs

Q2

First Name*

Sally

Q3

Surname*

Barnett

Q4

Organisation*(If responding on behalf of an organisation)

N/A

Q5

Email address *

[REDACTED]

Q6

Postal address*

N/A

Q7

Insert any general comments that do not relate to a specific paragraph number or policy in the general comments box below.*If you are suggesting a change is needed to the draft Local Plan or supporting document, it would be helpful if you could include suggested revised wording. If you are commenting on a document supporting the draft Local Plan (such as a topic paper, or the Sustainability Appraisal), please indicate so.

As a resident of Valley Park, my comments relate to Chapter 4 of the draft local plan 2040, specifically the development of the Velmore Farm site.

The proposed site would see a significant increase in housing in the area, which will have a number of negative impacts for the environment and local community. It is for the reasons described below that I object to the development of this site.

The proposed development of 1070 homes would see local traffic increase beyond the capacity of local road networks in and around Valley Park. The proposed access to the site is at Templars Way/School Lane. This is already a busy traffic area at peak times, with long delays. An increase of potentially 2000 cars would cause significant travel issues locally and a detrimental environmental impact from emissions. The local public transport routes have been reduced over the years and would not provide a suitable alternative for many families wishing to avoid using their own vehicles.

This area is prone to flooding, which has progressively worsened in the last 4-5 years. The plan does not take into account or describe the additional measures needed to alleviate this issue. It continues to be an ongoing problem for local residents and would likely be worsened by run off from paved areas of developed land.

There is insufficient planning for the increased demand on doctor's surgeries and dental practices. Our 8 year old daughter recently needed a routine GP appointment and we waited nearly 6 weeks to be seen. This is not uncommon and an issue that would be made significantly worse with the addition of over 1000 families to the area (excluding developments in North Baddesley, which will also impact this).

The plan doesn't address issues specific to the area proposed for development:

There is insufficient information regarding the plan for the overhead pylons, which cross the area and the impact of this on the homes being built on the site and local area.

A roman road crosses the site, of potential historical importance. There should be clear information as to how this will be protected.

The proposed site will affect the local gap and as such I cannot support this proposal. This area is a green space for residents, which was particularly important during the pandemic for exercise, wellbeing and mental health. It continues to provide an area for outdoor exercise that is not just 'an area of grass'. This cannot be replicated by the proposed 'green space' no matter what size.

The development would impact on the mature hedgerows and woodland in the area, which we know is habitat that is widely under threat. The proposal for a 'green space' would not provide the same environment for wildlife, as the current fields, hedgerows and woodland. The proposed development area also borders on Forestry Land and the increased population, noise and activity would affect wildlife beyond the area being developed.

There is a proposal to include a primary school within the development but no mention of secondary education. Secondary schools in the area are already heavily subscribed and an additional 1000 families with primary and secondary school age children, will likely see families struggling to get places at local secondary schools and having to travel further. This would put further strain on local travel networks and increase emissions.

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

Insert any specific comments in the general comments box below, indicating which paragraph, policy or matter your comments relate to where possible.*If you are suggesting a change is needed to the draft Local Plan or supporting document, it would be helpful if you could include suggested revised wording.
