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Q1

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

Mr

Q2

First Name*

Stephen

Q3

Surname*

Davies

Q4

Respondent skipped this question

Organisation*(If responding on behalf of an organisation)

Q5

Email address *

[REDACTED]

Q6

Postal address*

[REDACTED]

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.

The proposed plan to reduce the Local Gap between Valley Park and Chilworth is a step backwards and will change the "village feel" of Valley Park/Knightwood. The distinct gap of open fields between these modern developments (already consuming large areas of farming land) and that of Hut Wood and Chilworth is what distinguishes this area around Southampton from others. The same gap exists between North Baddesley and Rownhams giving a distinct separation between the settlements. The Stephenson Halliday report seems to suggest that just leaving Hut Wood between the proposed new housing and Chilworth will achieve the objective of maintaining separation. I would suggest that the open fields are the distinctive feature that Valley Park retains and the moment you change this it will just become part of a larger conglomeration of housing with no view of the woods which will be obscured by the 2 and 3 storey housing that pervades modern developments. The village feel will be lost yet the suggestion is we will have the recreational use of Hut Wood to benefit from. Personally I use it already and I can tell you for many parts of the year the tracks are unusable because of the sticky clay that exists and the poor drainage. There have been no efforts to make this available for the local population despite the numbers of houses already built in this area. I see no sense in suggesting that it will benefit me, my family or other locals because there will be potentially be 2568 more people in the area that will be closer to it so will gain more benefit yet existing residents will only get the burden of the additional people using the existing facilities, roads etc. The carrot is not a good one, why cant you give us the improved facility without the houses because you dont do much at the moment for us.

The development of 1070 houses in one large block will destroy the nature of this area. You will obviously be aware that there was nothing in the Valley Park area until the mid 80s, the gap we understood was maintained to avoid the build up of housing. Then there was Knightwood so there were 4000 houses where there were none before and now it seems this development will fill a need for TVBC and is neatly tucked away in the far south east corner of their domain.

Why is it that such a number has to be dumped on Romsey and Valley Park? Its a big Borough, why cant they be spread elsewhere on places such as Stockbridge that has no development yet is situated neatly between Winchester and Salisbury?

What I see at the moment is Castle Lane and Templars Way heavy with traffic on a daily basis, made impassable when there is an M27 or M3 incident when traffic sent along it. I see Eastleigh airport traffic on our local roads for off site parking to help Eastleigh airport (no benefit for me). Every household will inevitably have 2 cars on average and that's without the teenagers. Where are these cars going to go? Onto the same traffic route that is already snarled up and I feel sure that you will try and overcome this by putting traffic lights onto the estate so that the new estate cars can actually get off the estate. We are told an extra 2000 cars probably at peak times, what are you going to do about that issue stop them having too many cars? Perhaps give them an extra bike space each and that will do it. At least they will have plenty of power because its located right below to rows of pylons so they will be able to charge their electric cars of a night just by parking below the pylons.

What will be provided in the way of extra facilities for health, schools etc. I presume that all of these new users will want to come onto Valley Park and Knightwood to use already over subscribed facilities, putting extra traffic onto our estate for no benefit to ourselves. The road regularly floods on the School Lane roundabout and onto School Lane. Nothing has been done about this for years, building on the land adjacent is surely not going to help this situation. I suppose that is one benefit highways might be forced to pull their finger out and deal with that issue properly.

I fundamentally disagree that this is an appropriate development in this location. It will change the nature of this area forever and will have a negative impact on the existing "village" of Valley Park and Knightwood which are distinctly separated from Chandlers Ford by the Brook. You should re-think this strategy of depositing large volumes of housing onto green land, supposedly of limited biodiversity. If the presence of Nightjars on this land isnt enough I dont know what is to encourage a detailed study or what actually thrives on the combination of the woods to the south and west and the open fields and hedgerows to the north.

Please re-consider this proposal that runs previous efforts to maintain suitable green gaps between settlements into the ground.

Q8

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.

Local gaps report Southampton -Eastleigh

Why is it considered appropriate to reduce the green gap between these areas to a matter of a few hundred metres in this location just because of the presence of a Wood. Surely the setting is the key thing not the presence of a Wood. The distinctive separation is created in this area around Southampton by the presence of fields and woodland to create the rural setting. Just because you live next to a wood doesn't make you feel separated. The presence of the new housing will not make any of the existing residents feel any benefit from the new development. It is the open vista that pads the depth of the gap that makes the difference. This is maintained between Chilworth and North Baddesley. North Baddesley and Rownhams yet we are supposed to accept that a few trees will make you feel separated from Southampton. It seems as if those areas with the motorway are actually better off because the housing companies don't want to build there as readily but when they see a nice bit of green land with good views they can see their profit margin rising.

The Stephenson Halliday report refers to the gap as Southampton and Eastleigh, yet those in Valley Park don't feel very Eastleigh. There is a distinct separation between Valley Park and Eastleigh itself and as expressed before there is a village feel to this area because of this separation. The Monk's Brook, the Flexford Reserve and the railway ensures this separation cannot be forgotten because there is no road link

It seems that because we are dumped into a pot with Eastleigh this is forgotten. Why is there a need to keep a distinct field and wood separation between Chilworth and North Baddesley yet not between Valley Park and Southampton of a similar size and type. Why is there a need to keep a gap between North Baddesley and Rowham of a similar fashion.

It seems to me that the report has been dressed up to fill a need and does not do it very well. It has been worded to suggest that the woodlands are the thing that separates the settlements yet that is not the case. It is the distinct open fields, with nature in them and the hedgerows and streams/brooks that give the sense of separation. A Spinney could otherwise be said to be a suitable separation between settlements as long as it was dense enough.

If a gap is good enough for the villages why isn't it good enough for the villages of Valley Park and Knightwood.
