

Great Wilsey Park Development. Haverhill.

As my wife commented after hearing me yet again querying the case being made for more houses in NE Haverhill, "You are wasting your breath as these people don't even live here and are only doing a job" adding also the comment that they could not give a monkeys. I have to admit how right she is. Having lived locally since the early expansion years I have witnessed the coming and going of Sir Frederick Gibberd and his vision and seen the little market town become a haven for Betting, Fast Food and Charity Shops. Clothes shopping entails a trip to Bury St. Edmunds or along Chris Rea's favourite highway "The Road To Hell" which leads to Cambridge. That observation comes along with my apologies to those whose memorial gardens have been planted on the verges.

Five years or so ago I spent the day in the Town Hall and listened to the professional approach of the Haverhill Research Park Team and also the obvious lack of local knowledge of the Wilsey representatives who came out with a classic comment that they suspected a train line may at one time entered the town via Sturmer. No competition there then and I came away with similar thoughts of many of the other attendees that it was highly unlikely there would be any other further moves to develop the area but lo and behold subsequently we have gone full circle and the originally proposed 2,400 dwellings have already increased by 100 units encroaching on the village of Kedington.

I guess the idea is to surround the old town regardless of the fact that the new estate will probably generate in excess of 5,000 vehicles further clogging up the highways. Other than the new estate roads the only new road I can recall being laid in the last 50 years is the By Pass. Why not try riding your bike in Kedington or maybe Coupals Road in Haverhill as I am even wary of driving the car as the surfaces are eroding which is not helped by allowing double decker buses to ply their trade along. I must admit it is a while since a car passed our bungalow on its roof but Kedington's Haverhill/Sturmer Road is a literal rat run morning and evening and what will the proposed extension promote? Maybe the motorists will get lost escaping daily from their brand new dormitory and not reach the village but I am not holding my breath.

Into the annals of history has gone the NHS debacle when they quietly managed to convert the old Risbridge Home site from a retirement establishment to additional housing. Why even the developers managed to get away with incorrect specification construction and just what would happen when and if planning permission is granted for a change of use for the now partially defunct Haverhill Meat Products site, gridlock for Kedington I would surmise.

As for sewerage, the Stour tributary was recently contaminated killing of most of the stream's inhabitants and how would Sturmer and downstream Kedington suffer? Fortunately in recent years the village has not suffered so I trust the current Cumbrian/Yorkshire experience does no travel Southward.

I could continue with my rant but I think you have by now the gist of my sentiments,

Yours, D, Renyard