

Foxhollow
27 Bumpstead Road
Haverhill
Suffolk
CB9 8QA

12.06.19

Planning Department
West Suffolk District Council
West Suffolk House
Western Way
Bury St Edmunds
IP33 3YU

Dear Sirs

Planning reference – DC/19/1010RM

I have lived at *Fox Hollow* (formerly *Mayville*) 27 Bumpstead Road for 29 years and hope to remain here for the rest of my life. Therefore, I am determined to protect, as far as is possible, the residential properties in Bumpstead Road from any detrimental effects that may result from developments in the immediate area.

The residents of Bumpstead Road have known for many years that the land between our properties and the by-pass would be developed at some point. I personally accepted the inevitable, years before the Culina complex was built. I fully appreciate that this and future development brings employment and other beneficial opportunities to Haverhill and the surrounding district. I do not therefore, oppose the continued construction of business and commercial premises on this particular site.

However, any such development must not be allowed to create an unacceptable impact on existing homes or to compromise the wellbeing of residents.

The original plans for this site showed that vehicle movement would be confined to the south of the proposed buildings. This would result in the buildings forming a solid barrier between the vehicles and the residential area. This barrier would go some way to deflect noise, exhaust emissions, lights and other disturbance, away from our homes. Although not ideal, this would be a workable scenario.

The current plans however, reverse this situation. Now vehicle movement is shown to be to the north of the new buildings. This would restrict noise, exhaust emissions, lights and other disturbance from dissipating southward and instead reflect it all toward our homes, 24/7. This is an intolerable proposal. Not only would this result in unacceptable levels of all manner of disturbance and pollution but would also inflict potentially severe

physical and mental health-risks upon myself and other residents. This cannot be allowed to happen.

May I respectfully bring to your attention that number 21 (*Flint Cottage*) and 25 (*Thistledown*) Bumpstead Road are owned by Barnardiston Hall Preparatory School and are run as residential homes for autistic children and young people. Noise and disruption of any kind has a serious impact on these vulnerable people and can cause adverse behavioural episodes. We the residents, you the local authority, the developers, the architects and the builders, all have an individual and corporate duty of care to protect the rights and freedoms of these important and valued members of our community.

I note that the installation of a metal open-wire fence is shown on the plans to match the existing site fence. Such a fence will provide absolutely no barrier to noise, pollution, lights etc and will afford no protection to our homes. A dedicated, purpose-built sound barrier must be constructed of sufficient height, width and depth to effectively absorb and block the inevitable disturbance.

The height of the proposed units causes me great concern. I attended a meeting of Haverhill Town Council on 11.06.19 at which councillors expressed dismay at the overpowering visual effect the buildings will have, not only on the residents of Bumpstead Road but also on Haverhill as a whole. These edifices will be visible from as far away as the north side of the Chalkstone Housing area as well as many other distant locations in the district.

The construction of new units on this site will, as previously mentioned, bring new job opportunities and the majority of new employees will live in Haverhill. Consequently, many will travel to work on foot, as many workers at Culina do currently. However, there is no continuous footpath along Bumpstead Road. When walking from the northern end of Bumpstead Road to Icen Way it is necessary to cross the road; a road that is extremely busy at certain times of the working day. Accessing Bumpstead road on foot from Hollands Road, in order to get to Icen Way, again necessitates crossing Bumpstead Road at a very dangerous junction, heavily used by HGVs. Safe pedestrian access to Icen Way is currently non-existent. This presents a major safety hazard. This potentially fatal situation must be resolved in order to alleviate the likelihood of pedestrian/vehicle collisions.

I ask that West Suffolk District Council refuse to grant the current application. I further ask that Planning Committee stipulate to the applicant that due consideration must be given to the existing residents of Bumpstead Road and that a fresh application be submitted which does not threaten to disrupt our homes and our lives to such an intolerable level. Sensible discussion and thoughtful compromise can, I am sure, greatly reduce this developments impact on my home and health and also that of my neighbours.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Yours sincerely

Bill Taylor

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