

We object to this proposal on grounds of :-

Density

The height of housing

The complete contrast to its existing surroundings

Highway safety.

Parking seems to be inadequate for the number of dwellings and the lack of any frontage to many of the houses is a cause for concern, along with the sharing of the thoroughfares between pedestrians and vehicles.

Lack of play areas and open communal space.

The vision for North West Haverhill was to form an attractive and locally distinct neighbourhood within Haverhill, to strengthen the character of the town and provide new facilities for use by the existing and extended community. Scale and massing should respect surrounding existing properties. A lower density was to be applied to the eastern section of the site and around Boyton Hall estate respecting those existing properties adjoining the site's boundary. Transitions between "character" areas should be carefully considered and designed with a view to matching storey heights and ridges, even if the architectural character is quite different.

The design is said to be contemporary. However, the design code infers the vernacular to be Victorian buildings. Yes some are 3 storeys high, but these are predominantly in the town centre at the bottom of the valley. To fall back on an updated theme of Victorian design is not only a retrograde step, but is not in keeping with modern life and aspirations. As stated, the lack of frontage to many of the houses causes safety issues for pedestrians and especially for children, with the lack of any suitable play areas. The Victorian horse and cart moved at a slower pace and with considerably more noise than a modern electric vehicle. The neighbourhood square above the allotments particularly seems to be lacking in space and parking.

The adjoining estates have a lower density, and maximum 2 storeys and have so much more open space, with distinct defined vehicular and pedestrian areas. We are building an area more suitable to a city, on the edge of a country town. There is no need for a statement gateway of 4 storey flat roof apartments. This is more akin visually to a cityscape, not a country town.

The Design Code is stated on issues like density and building height, but somehow ignored when it comes to conserving the environment, open spaces and children's play areas. We were told that these points would be implemented on the next phase. How long will that be and in the meantime, where will the current children play.

I believe that there are also issues on water supply, surface water and foul water drainage, which have still not been sufficiently addressed. Existing water pressure locally is considered low, how will it cope with this new volume of housing?

I would urge the council to object to this proposal .