

21/01552/OUT | Outline for a residential development comprising of 130 dwellings; access roads with a proposed junction onto Camp Road and pedestrian access point onto Victoria Road | OS Parcel 0059 Camp Road Freshwater Isle Of Wight

This is a large development for a small rural town, and I am concerned about the impact on existing residents, health services, local schools, infrastructure and the environment.

With regard to infrastructure, the narrow rural roads are not built to cope with high volumes of traffic and there is no denying that vehicular activity in the area would dramatically increase. Such a large increase in traffic poses a danger to pedestrians and other road users and will no doubt cause havoc in a small town.

Island Roads have recommended the application is refused and I share their concerns about significantly increased traffic volumes and the lack of thought that the developers have given to pedestrians and cyclists in the scheme. New housing schemes should give much greater consideration to green travel than this development has, and the safety of all residents and highway users should always come first.

I share the concerns of Hampshire Constabulary about the opportunities the layout of the development creates for crime and disorder. It is clear that this development has not been thought through with the safety of residents in mind.

There are environmental concerns here too. These houses are planned on an agricultural field that is home to wildlife, and which provides a natural gap between existing houses giving people room to breathe. Residents have reported that the area is home to several bird species and bats, all of which will be disturbed by such a large development.

The West Wight is largely rural and therefore residents would not expect to have housing crammed onto every green piece of land. This is yet again another example of developers not building with Islanders in mind.

The Island needs affordable housing and social housing and very little else. This development does not meet the needs of Islanders.

Local residents have also raised concerns with me about the potential risk of flooding with more houses in the area. I share their concerns and I urge the Planning Committee to consider the potential risks of neighbouring properties flooding before making its final decision on this application.

An additional 130 homes will put major pressure on health services in the West Wight and will likely have a detrimental impact on the lives of existing residents as a result. This is not what the Island needs, or what residents deserve.