

Sir / Madam

Please find attached my comments on the Brentwood Draft Local Plan.

As you can see from my address I am a resident of West Horndon which is an area which will be severely impacted by the level of development proposed in and adjacent to the village.

The current plan is for an additional 500 houses on the 2 industrial sites in the village.

There are approximately 800 residences in the village so this will virtually double the size of the village with no additional infrastructure to support the new housing. There is no mention of any additional shops, any additional job opportunities, any additional schooling; — in fact nothing except housing. All the Council appears to be concerned with is the solving of the housing deficit. There needs to be a sensible, balanced and well thought out plan to support additional housing of this magnitude in the village.

We already have issues with drainage, paving and road pothole repairs. In addition

②

we have problems with lack of policing, only one Doctor, and cars speeding through the village. No improvements to any of these concerns is being mooted and based on past experience West Horndon is forgotten about whenever possible.

As I have pointed out in previous letters to the Council, West Horndon is located in a dip between higher ground in all directions. In 2012 we spent Christmas Day baling out houses which were flooded after heavy rainfall.

Responsibility for keeping flood ditches clear has now been passed off to residents. No help was offered by the Council who now plan 500 more houses on the affected area. It does not appear very sensible. What are the Council plans to prevent water diverted and increasing flood risks?

The Railway Station at West Horndon is already at capacity from the vehicle parking and commuters footfall with no seats on most trains. Network Rail have no plans to upgrade the facilities or the services so an additional 1000 or more people can only make matters significantly worse.

There is no Police presence in West Horndon. We used to see an Officer for $\frac{1}{2}$ day a week but that ended two years ago. An additional 500 houses should mean consideration must be given to improved Police presence. No mention of this was made during the Council drop-in sessions on the Draft Local Plan.

Schooling is another important part of the required supporting infrastructure. With an additional 500 houses in the village it will require extra resources for the village primary/junior school to accommodate the extra children from these houses. Secondary School transportation is also a major issue with additional buses being required so that the children can get to their schools. Of course after school clubs and classes will also require consideration. After all that is why we pay community charges to the Council.

In a nutshell there does not appear to be any thought given to the infrastructure support necessary to support the additional houses in the Draft Plan for West Horndon. It just seems to be a numbers game to meet the Council housing targets.

With regard to the Draft Local Plan which details development of the Dunton Hills Garden Village; -

In all the previous Neighbourhood Consultations Brentwood Borough residents have stated that their priorities were; -

- 1) Protecting the Green Belt.
- 2) Protecting Local Character
- 3) Herongate residents identified a housing need.
- 4) Spatial Option One was for centralised growth around the Brentwood Town Centre
- 5) Spatial Option Two was for growth along the A12 Transport Corridor

There was no mention of large development near the Dunton area at all.

The Dunton Hills Garden Village is proposed to be built entirely on Green Belt land miles away from Brentwood Town or Herongate. The land itself is prone to flooding in parts and will make travel far more difficult in the area. The A128 is single lane road already congested in rush hour and will not cope with additional vehicular traffic. West Horndon and Laindon railway stations are similarly fully congested and additional people from 2500 houses cannot be accommodated. It is a singularly silly misconception to believe that they can in their current condition.

As the Council is fully aware the A12 corridor is set to be improved to Motorway standard by the Highways Dept. Cross rail is being built in Shenfield and Brentwood so there will be vastly improved traffic flows in the North of the Borough but the housing will all be in the South with inadequate transport. The single lane A128 will be the only connection between the north and south of the Borough and it will be completely inadequate.

The green belt in the south of the Borough is the most pressurised of the Metropolitan Green Belt. It was set up to prevent the urban sprawl of London creeping to the coast. The development of Dunton Hills Village is actually assisting the urban sprawl as it will link up to Laindon Hills in Basildon. This is not meeting the needs of Residents or what the Green Belt was designed to do.

The Council and the Planning Dept are required to carry out the wishes of Residents and plans for Dunton Hills Village plainly do not fit with Residents wishes as expressed in previous consultations. Borough employees must bear this in mind - that is their job.

There are very limited plans for development in the north of the Borough along the A12 corridor. There is no explanation why this is the case. Is the Green Belt a higher priority there? From a wild-life and site of natural beauty there is nothing to suggest any reason for this. It seems almost immune to any possible development and that is strange as the south of the Borough seems to offer more in this respect.

In short Dunton Hills ~~and~~ Garden Village seem to be an unwanted undesirable development on pressurised Metropolitan Green Belt with totally inadequate transport links. Logical development would be on the A12 corridor in the North of the Borough closer to good transport links including Crossrail and the upgraded A12.

I look forward to receiving your comments in reply to my points of concerns raised in this letter.

Kind regards,

