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22nd August 20

Madam,

I am writing to inform you of my opinion on the recently published draft Local Development Plan which has been released for consultation by your department.

I am not sure whether the timing of your release is designed to reduce the opportunity for residents to put their points of view in case it does not concur with your own. That is how it appears to me.

As you can see I am a resident of West Horndon and I am appalled by the level of development you are proposing for this village. There are currently approximately 800 residences and your plan is for 1500 more. This trebles the size of a small pleasant community and will obviously totally change the dynamics of the village without any regard to the wishes of the residents of the Borough that you are employed to serve. In addition to this lack of care I would point out the following issues and look forward to your reply as soon as practical.

1. With such a huge addition of housing and people there are obvious implications for all facilities and services. In the past West Horndon has been poorly served by the Brentwood Borough Council with regard

to drainage, paving and road repairs. In addition there are issues on policing, health care and speeding through the village. Therefore residents have absolutely no trust that suitable improvements to any of these items will be addressed as part of this plan.

2. West Horndon Village is on a flood plain situated in a dip between higher ground in all directions. Whenever there is heavy rain my garden floods. At Christmas 2012 there was literally a river of water running down Thorndon Avenue and Cadogan Avenue. Residents spent Christmas Day baling out houses in the village. You can see photographs of the conditions on social networking sites. The Fire Brigade were called to deal with the floods and I would like to know your plans to deal with this in future.
3. Even more important, as your department is fully aware, is the fact that West Horndon is surrounded by the Metropolitan Green Belt. As you know this was set up to prevent the urban sprawl of London creeping along the corridor towards the coast. This is the most important Green Belt in the country due to the pressure on housing in the South East of England. In particular it is at its most pressurised along the Arterial Roads such as the A127. To state that the Green Belt around Shenfield is somehow more important and of great character is risible. If you begin encroaching on the Metropolitan Green Belt you are starting on the slippery slope. In the local consultations carried out in 2011/2012 you are aware that conservation of the Green Belt is considered by Brentwood residents to be their number one priority and it should be yours too.

as you are employed to carry out the wishes of the Borough residents. That is your job.

3. In the same local consultations it was also a priority that all available "brown-field" sites should be used to benefit residents. I would like to know why these sites which are not being used are not made available for housing. To state that it is difficult to use them due to multiple ownership is a cop-out. It is your department's duty of care to ensure these sites are a priority for better use.
4. Another obvious issue is the hugely expensive "Cross-Rail" project which will utilise Shenfield Railway Station. Huge amounts of expense are being put into Shenfield to accommodate the upgrade so it appears a little short-sighted to put the primary focus for housing in an area of the Borough with few direct links to Shenfield where the need will be. How logical is it to put over 40% of future housing stock 20 minutes away by road, on a good day. The link to Shenfield is the A128 which already an extremely busy road with a totally inadequate bus service and no rail link. How are these people expected to utilise "Cross-Rail" and the benefits that Shenfield will have? It does not appear to be much of a plan, especially considering the expense involved.
5. The railway station at West Hamdon is already at full capacity. There is insufficient parking available and it is impossible to get a seat on any train service during rush-hours. Network Rail have no plans now or in the future to

improve or upgrade the station or the services. Without these improvements there is no improved opportunity or potential in West Horndon.

6. I would also like to know when Brentwood Borough Council plans to develop the North of the Borough. This has been side-stepped and skirted around by your department for far too long and I would like an explanation and I am sure residents in the North of the Borough would too.
7. Currently there is no Police presence in West Horndon. We used to see a police officer for half a day a week at the village hall but this stopped over a year ago. With any increase in housing consideration must be given to the Police and Fire authorities.
8. The Village School is already at full capacity and there needs to be a substantial building programme put in place to accommodate more children. Secondary School transportation is also a major issue. Village children have to leave home at 7.20 a.m. to catch the only buses to their school. There is no provision for children who want to attend after-school clubs and classes. This already restricts their educational and social possibilities. Further increases in the number of children in the village will obviously make matters worse and cannot improve their situation. That is the opposite of the Borough Council's remit.
9. I understand that 1500 houses and a number of Traveller sites are planned for the village.

but who will build, buy or occupy these when they are built on a flood plain?

Approximately 3 years ago a block of low-rise flats were built on the corner of Thorndon Avenue and they have not been fully occupied and the Owners do not appear to have been able to sell them. Although not politically correct to state, it is also a fact that people do not like to buy or live in close proximity to Traveller sites no matter how well kept.

10. In the neighbourhood consultations Brentwood residents stated their priorities were as follows; -

- a) Protecting the Green Belt
- b) Protecting local character
- c) Herongate residents identified a housing need.

Many residents in Brentwood Town, Hutton, Pilgrims Hatch and other areas identified re-use of existing buildings in their areas as the fourth highest priority. Can you provide details that ensure these priorities are being fully met?

11. In November and December 2009 the Issues and Options Consultations took place and resulted in the following list of priority actions; -

Spatial Option one was for centralised growth in and around Brentwood Town utilising the area.

Spatial Option two was for Transport corridor led growth along the A12 and A128.

There was no mention of heavy development in the West Horndon area at all. This seems to be something dreamed up by the planning department as an easy option to the detriment of the Borough residents and not what the planning department is

required to do by local ratepayers.

I would consider that the only area in West Horndon which could justifiably be used as future housing potential is the industrial area to the west of the village. I would consider any encroachment on the Metropolitan Green Belt to be a complete dereliction of duty and a slap in the face to the residents of Brentwood Borough Council which the planning department is supposed to serve.

I look forward to receiving your comments in reply to the points I have made in this letter and trust that you will have no objection to my following up to ensure a suitable reply.