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26<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing to express my deep concerns over the Council's **Local Development Plan**, in specific section **CP4** which **identifies West Horndon as an area for 'significant growth'**. West Horndon is small Village of no more than 500 homes in the Village itself; the Ward has no more than 701 homes. 1500 homes would more than treble the size of the village and change the character of West Horndon, which the LDP promises not to do in its vision; 'to minimise the negative impacts of development on people, the environment'. 1500 homes even if it is mixed development will most certainly have a serious impact on West Horndon's residents and the surrounding environment and this cannot be worked around.

I have to ask why West Horndon has been singled out for **'significant and future growth'**? The plan indicates that West Horndon aligns with the **LDP's plans being a Transport Led Development**. Yes we have a station but the station platform has already been extended and C2C our current providers have made it very clear that they have **no plans now or in the future to develop the station or run more frequent trains, which no investment will be made to improve services or cope with increase use**.

The LDP also talks about the aim to increase employment within Brentwood and once someone steps on the West Horndon line they immediately leave the borough and take their money and income elsewhere.

We cannot get a train into Brentwood directly and the **A128 is already over loaded with traffic**. With no possibility to widen this road any traffic travelling into Brentwood will only exacerbate the already heavy traffic through Ingrave. It can sometimes take 40 minutes to reach Brentwood and with such a **poor bus service** connecting us to Brentwood many residents shop elsewhere or travel by train to other towns and again leave the borough. **It is far easier and speedier to reach Thurrock, Grays and Romford shopping areas**, which is why as a Village it is difficult to see how we are connected to Brentwood.

Our secondary school children have no choice but to attend schools across Brentwood, by increasing the number of houses in this village you are asking secondary schools to increase their intake or find places for our children in locations **beyond reasonable travelling distances**. They have to travel by bus through Ingrave at the moment and more children will only increase the already heavy traffic through this area.

The local Primary is already at full capacity and many of the families in the village moved to the village in order to give **their children a more family centred schooling experience**. **Almost all of the children walk to school** and there are very strong links between the families and accountability between them and the school. Having lived on the East Ham Estate (99 Hawthorn Avenue) in Brentwood this experience was almost 'outworldish' for me and yet it has become the **core reason for settling here so well**, everyone looks after each other and each other's neighbours. It is the reason most of our family have moved to the

village. **Trebling the size of the village would most definitely destroy this level of accountability and possibly endanger some of our more frail members of the community.** Our elderly neighbour recently fell and broke her arm, she faced spending 6 weeks in a sling and not being able to drive. Villagers have organised her hospital appointments; put her rubbish out; provided meals for her; walked her dog and sorted prescriptions for her. **This is the character of West Horndon and I fear this level of development would ruin this.**

Infrastructure will not be in place before the build starts and **the LPD does not make it clear how this will appear or what will be provided.** For the local Primary school this means having no choice but to take new children that move into the area **before any funds and infrastructure can be put into place to expand it.** Without the sale of houses and a clearer picture of numbers of children **it will be impossible for the council to clearly see what level of development the school will need.** This will impact upon the education of our own children because class sizes will increase and teaching space will be reduced. Teachers will have no choice but to divide their attention between more children and this **will inevitably affect the quality of teaching our children receive.** No guarantees have been made to protect this or the future children who the school are forced to take because other local schools cannot accommodate them. Or new families have to travel to other local schools, which defeats the idea that most if not all the children walk to school and will only increase the level of traffic through station road.

It currently takes 3 working days to get a doctors appointment within the village and Ingrave do not have a Health Centre, the only other option is to go to a doctors in Brentwood. Before we transferred it took 45 minutes to get to a 9am appointment and many early appointments I had to cancel because I was unable to get there on time because of the traffic through Ingrave. Now the **'Infrastructure plan is forthcoming', what does that mean?** We haven't seen anything and the consultation process is nearly over. Will the doctors be improved? Will the surgery be allocated more doctors? Trebling the village the doctors surgery has made it clear it could not cope with the increase of these numbers. No plans have be made available to show how this will improve. Many of our residents have to travel out of the village to get their prescriptions as the doctors surgery does not stock all medicines and **many elderly patients have to waits days for medication to be delivered into the village** as they cannot travel out, which is frankly unacceptable.

Although many residents argue that losing the Industrial Sites would benefit the village, I have serious concerns about the loss of employment for those on the industrial estate. I am aware that leases will not be renewed for many of the businesses there but no space will be made available in time for them to relocate. **The LDP claims that employment will be another of its main reasons for implementation and yet it appears many of our local businesses on the West Horndon Industrial Estates will have to relocate to other part of the borough or completely move out of the borough.** The two sites 020 and 021 will be developed in 2017 and the proposed Industrial Estate Brentwood Enterprise Park 101A/B will not be available when they have to vacate.

The impact on local roads, the A127 and A128 are already inadequate to deal with the more traffic, which 1500 would certainly increase. **The A127 is at a standstill most mornings into London and then again heading towards Southend in the evenings.** The traffic into Brentwood on the A128 is already at breaking point and it would be impractical to widen it. The current access to the A127 from Thorndon Avenue is extremely dangerous and requires a 90 degree angle turn into Thorndon Avenue from the A127. While trying to join the A127 from Thorndon Avenue require dangerous increases of speed with a very small if any slip road. Many SAT NAVS direct members of the public to approach the village down Thorndon and I have witnessed many near accidents and the brick walls on the house west of Thorndon Avenue even today has been knocked over. Many people take the corner too fast and don't anticipate other people approaching the A127 from Thorndon Avenue. **With 1500 homes being built in the village I seriously worry about the possibility of increased accidents and the lack of sufficient access to the A127.**

Living on the west side of Thorndon Avenue I am very concerned about the loss of fields above the Industrial Estates. The fields above **this area act as a soak for the waters which drain off Thorndon Park and over the A127, which in itself has recently with heavy rain flooded many times** (Removing

the threat of flooding for many residents east of these field). Without this area the waters will flood local houses and will travel quickly down towards to railway lines and through the culverts there and onto other areas such as Bulphan, which already is a serious flood risk area. The NPPF makes it very clear that no development should in any way impact upon other areas, which it most surely would have. Any further flood alleviation scheme would increase the risk of flooding areas to the south of the railway line. The Village has already suffered serious flooding in 1958, 1981 and more recently in 2012 on Christmas Day. The allocation in the LDP to strategically develop land extending 25 hectares will seriously affect the potential flood risk for existing residents backing onto these areas. **Many residents including my in-laws who moved in this year in June are finding it extremely difficult to get buildings insurance because of existing flood risks** and 1500 homes would most definitely increase this risk and I can't see how any of the new houses on the Greenbelt fields will get buildings insurance with the knowledge of existing flood risks. **How can you responsibly build homes to sell knowing that insurance companies will not provide needed insurance to get a mortgage?** There is no evidence that the council has carried out any assessment of drainage in the area and the Environment Agency's website identifies West Horndon and Bulphan as being at risk of flooding.

The loss of Greenbelt in the village will be significant and it does seem ridiculously unfair to be taking Greenbelt from this area and no other! **Why has Ingateston not received a fairer portion of the proposed build as they have a station much like that of West Horndon that also runs into London?** Both Brentwood town and Shenfield are getting 1000 homes and Ingateston receives 130 homes and that's it! If we are going to have to lose Greenbelt it seems only fair that as they have a station that **they also receive a fair share of the allocation of houses.** The NPPF makes it clear that only under exceptional circumstances will it be acceptable to justify building on Greenbelt land, however recent clarifications have made it clear that housing demand is unlikely to constitute justifiable reason to build on Greenbelt.

I would like to see the Timmermans nursery on the A127 considered as an alternative site. Land which is Greenbelt, but already being used for another purpose. Why is the Hutton Industrial Estate not being put forward as a Brownfield site suitable for development, much like West Horndon Industrial Estate it has some privately owned areas and other that are not. Hutton Industrial Estate much like our own Industrial Estate also runs through compact residential areas and sees large trucks travelling by residents homes, which I'm sure they see as an annoyance. This would seriously impact upon the need to redevelop Greenbelt areas.

I cannot fully express my serious concern about the lack of communication with residents over this period and the simple suggestion that this plan has incorporated residents' views; from when? **And I have not found a resident who was in any way fully aware of the possibility of developing the Greenbelt sites, which negates the LPD statements that this consultation period was as a response to residential feedback!** What guarantees do any of us have that this 'master planning' will happen or that developers will not simply do as they wish and build lots and lots of houses to make money? **Where is the accountability when the Head of Planning in Brentwood Council has recently resigned?** Who will be responsible for conducting this change and who can we as residents call out to ensure that promises are being met? This has happened in the past to West Horndon and promises were not up-held, what's to say it will be any different now?

Yours Sincerely,