

20251233 25.1.26

> I am writing to strongly oppose the plan for the construction of 154 houses in the farmland behind Downs plans with the only access into Downs Road, beside the Infant and Primary school.

>

> These days most houses have two cars or sometimes more, so you are proposing to channel an additional 300 plus cars into an already busy road in close proximity to a busy infant and primary school. The area around the school is already horribly congested at school times and the increased traffic will pose a real danger and increased air pollution to the young and vulnerable pupils. Parking on the proposed estate will immediately become an issue, as not all the houses have garages, and surplus cars certainly overflow onto Downs Road.

>

> The actual process of construction would cause havoc on this already busy road and further aggravate the risk to the health of the residents and more particularly the children.

>

> Istead Rise currently has only one bus per hour, and that only during parts of the day. New residents will therefore be using their cars to access Wrotham Road and New Barn Road, causing additional congestion.

>

> Downs Road is in a valley and the increased housing will create a flood risk as the fields behind provide natural drainage. Of equal importance is that the fields behind it are currently in use for food production and this should not be compromised.

>

> I am 89 and the Downs Way Medical Practice currently struggles to meet the demand for appointments so adding an additional 300 - 400 patients will increase the pressure. The developers suggest that overflow could be absorbed by Meopham but they will be confronting a much larger problem with the number of homes proposed for their village so the suggestion that they could absorb overflow from Istead Rise is ridiculous.

>

> The wooded area between Rosegarth is not shrub scrubland as suggested by the developers, it is a woodland. The area is a nesting site for crows and pigeons and currently a pair of herons, which are a protected species, and home to foxes and a variety of small animals whose habitat should not be compromised.

>

> The Council should be concentrating on their brown field sites for both affordable and general housing with better public transport access. They should be ensuring that the vacant town centre sites, where there are transport links and job opportunities, are actually built on rather than left with hoardings around them.

>

> My husband and I moved to Istead Rise in 1972 from Crayford and chose it because it was a village surrounded by green belt and our house overlooked farmland. We stayed for more than 50 years because it is a vibrant community in its own right and surrounded by fields.

>

> I oppose this planning application at every level and will add my support to any actions required to prevent it.

>

>

>

>

>

