

Subject: 20251233 Attention Adeoye Lawal

Dear Adeoye Lawal

I want to object to the application to build 154 houses in the fields behind Downs Road.

I was born here and went to the infant and primary school. We used to walk to school but over the years the number of cars driving children to school has steadily increased, making it riskier for the children walking, arriving and leaving. The concept of having the entrance to a new estate right beside the school seems dangerous and the possibility of a further 300 cars coming and going poses a real danger in terms of traffic and pollution. The actual building process will be unbelievably disruptive and create more hazards and pollution, particularly for the children.

The land is a mix of agricultural and woodland which provide natural drainage in the valley and these additional houses will raise the flood risk, reduce necessary food production and damage the environment. There are currently a pair of herons, a protected species, nesting in the woodland together with crows, pigeons and assorted small birds. It is also home to badgers, foxes and a wide variety of small animals. We should be protecting this natural environment not sacrificing it to housing.

Istead Rise has a very limited bus service so any new residents will have to travel to work using their own cars, this will increase congestion on an already busy road and at the junctions onto New Barn Road and Wrotham Road.

Our local medical practice is already stretched and appointments are hard to come by, the addition of another 300 -400 people will simply add to the problem.

Gravesham has a variety of brownfield site which offer better access to transport and job opportunities and surely the Council should be focusing on those, and getting the town centre sites, which are currently boarded up, actually built.

I am of the generation who are fighting to protect the environment, we need to preserve the green belt as green. It is not right to turn it "grey" when brown field land is available and a more sensible alternative. This may be less profitable for developers but profit should not be the deciding factor.

I am now at university in London but come home at weekends for the peaceful, quiet surroundings and clean air which allow me to focus on my studies. The thought of this being disrupted with the noise and pollution of a construction site fills me with horror.

I repeat that I object to this development

