

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to comment on planning application 20260207; the proposed development to the north of Norwood Lane, Meopham and Camer Road.

There would be no GP or medical facilities available to the residents as all existing local facilities are already running at maximum capacity with lengthy waiting lists.

It has been estimated that the 725 proposed dwellings will result in 1,450 extra vehicles. Where will all these vehicles park. Do the proposed new dwellings have driveways. If not some of these vehicles will have to park off of the site in the surrounding streets, which are narrow and already crowded. Will Tradescant Drive become an overflow car park. Not all these roads have footpaths. This will result in a substantial increase in the danger to all road users and much reduced access for emergency vehicles.

The vast majority of the new residents will have to drive in order to access local shops, employment and other services. This will result in profound problems on local roads. If they attempt to travel to the A2 via Sole Street and Cobham they will be using narrow country lanes without footpaths which are already very busy. Attempting to pass through Cobham is already very problematic with traffic calming measures frequently causing congestion.

Attempting to access the A2 via the A227 will cause the road outside the parade of shops to become even more congested and dangerous.

Attempting to drive south on the A227, towards the M20, will mean having to drive past three schools, which already cause serious congestion, with pupils being dropped off and picked up. It will also make the existing junction of the A227 and The Street and the George public house even more dangerous.

Attempting to drive west towards Longfield will just send more vehicles into the traffic calming measures at Longfield Hill and the congestion of Longfield village itself.

If the development does go ahead then it might well be completed about the same time as the government implement their policy that all new car sales must be of all electric vehicles only. This means that up to 1,450 vehicles will need to charge their batteries each evening. At the moment the companies that fit 'home-chargers' will only fit them on private premises (a private driveway). How many of the new homes will have private drives? Has provision been made for sufficient public charging points?

Meopham at the moment suffers from an unreliable power supply. The power supply to 725 new homes will be considerable, especially with a growing number of electric vehicles. Has provision been made to maintain a reliable power supply to the village.

The existing proposal is for an infants school to be built within the development. However, this will not be funded by the developer but by the local authority. Apparently, the local authority does not have the funding to pay for this, so will the school ever actually be built.

Even if the infant school does get built then any children aged seven and above will have to go to the two existing schools in Meopham; Meopham Community Academy, on the junction of the A227 and Longfield Road; and Meopham Secondary School next to Meopham Medical Centre. The shortest route to these is to leave the development by the public footpath into Norwood Lane, where there is no footpath. Then up the alleyway into Tradescant Drive; Then onto the A227 and both schools. This will result in a huge increase in the number of pedestrians using Tradescant Drive and the resultant noise and disruption. It

will also be dangerous for the children themselves having to walk in the road in Norwood Lane.

Home deliveries by courier companies and supermarkets continues to rise. For 725 homes there could easily be something approaching 100 van journeys on a busy day. With the junction of Camer Road and Norwood Lane being for buses and cyclists only all these vans would have to use the junction of the A227 and Norwood lane; causing complete chaos.

For residents living on the eastern side of the development, by far the shortest pedestrian route to the local shops and schools on the A227 is to walk west-bound along Camer Road to Green Lane. The problem with this is that there is no footpath and there is a sharp bend in the road. This is bound to result in death or serious injury.

Covering such a large area of farmland in concrete will have a seriously detrimental effect on the ability of rain water to drain away. There are at least two parts of Norwood Lane that are currently prone to flooding in heavy rain. With the extra rain water there is a very real risk of the road being impassable and residents homes being flooded. All of this is in addition to climate change.

There is an established principle when considering planning applications in rural areas that existing villages that are currently separate should remain separate. This development would join Meopham to Sole Street. The principle is that there should be open countryside between the two. The presence of a single railway line would not be sufficient.

The idea of building so many dwellings on what is currently productive farmland, at a time of growing food insecurity, is very short sighted.

The existing farmland and woods provide a secure habitat for a number of animals and particularly birds. Once they have been disturbed they will be lost for ever

