
From: Glendon Franklin [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 February 2015 15:12
To: Planning Policy
Subject: Call for sites

Sir,
as a resident of [REDACTED] in Rowhedge I am concerned that the Council may be considering changing the land use classification of land at Battleswick Farm to allow development.

I have only just heard about this as it was not publicised at all as far as I can tell.

While I realise this is part of a long term planning process and any development might not happen for many years I feel this particular portion of land is too valuable to lose to housing, for the following reasons.

1. The fields provide a physical separation of Rowhedge from Colchester which gives Rowhedge a unique character as an individual village. Over the last thirty years, driving out of Old Heath and into the farmed areas creates a definite sense of separation and is part of what gives Rowhedge its identity.
2. If this land were developed it would effectively be creating the sort of ribbon development that was seen in the 1930s and that has subsequently been thoroughly discredited - as I suppose all planning officers will know from their training.
3. Rowhedge has already seen significant developments on Marsh Crescent and in Browns ship yard and there is further development already planned for the old dock site. All this has put and will increasingly place a strain on the village infrastructure. There is already a capacity issue in the Primary school with no space for further classroom expansion.
4. Road capacity in Rowhedge will need serious upgrading to deal with further population growth - the current roads are adequate at present though parking is an issue and creates hazards at the entrance to the village but I think that once the docks are built on the transport infrastructure will be at capacity.
5. At present the farm land provides a valuable wild life corridor and haven for birds and other creatures. On an average day, deer, foxes, woodpeckers, bullfinches etc can be seen as well as pheasants and other more common animals. It would seem tragic and philistine to lose this wildlife when there are undoubtedly many, far more suitable development sites within the Borough.

Yours
Glendon Franklin
[REDACTED]
Rowhedge