

To Andrea Copsey,

Planning Department,

Colchester Borough Council.

Dear Ms Copsey,

Objection to Policy SS12a of the Colchester Borough Council Draft Local Plan. Specifically - The proposed development of the Dawes Lane site (MER02)

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity of attending the Inspector's Public Hearing or submitting a written statement with regard to the above. I have chosen the latter option and which is as follows:

I will be brief and cite the following reasons for my original objection and would ask the Inspectors to consider them in their deliberations regarding the above and which are behind my belief in the unsuitability of the Dawes Lane site for development.

1. The access to and from the site will be Dawes Lane, this a country road that is unclassified and with restricted width and therefore it presents a highway safety risk. It should also be noted that whilst this road has moderate traffic during the Winter it increases substantially during the Summer due to the influx of visitors further increased its unsuitability when considering safety.
2. The site is on land designated as "good to moderate" agricultural land. I believe it has already been established elsewhere that the country needs agricultural land to ensure self-sufficiency as far as is possible. Therefore, we should not be wasting such land on development especially when other possibilities exist, as in this case. Others who objected have detailed possible alternatives.
3. The site has poor access to all the village amenities especially when considering the inadequacy of the roads generally and definitely the parking facilities.
4. Any increase in population will put a further strain on the existing medical facilities which are already at breaking point.
5. Further sports facilities are not necessary when adequate facilities already exist, five football pitches (2 full size and 3 junior), two full size rugby pitches, two cricket squares, basketball hard court, and a tennis club with 3 hard courts and 3 grass courts.
6. The development is a clear breach of the Coastal Protection Plan. I feel the reasons given for the breach by Colchester Borough Council that there is a need for more houses and recreational facilities is hard to sustain when all the evidence is examined and the alternatives taken into account.

Finally two points I would make,

- a. a. I would ask the Inspectors to take the time to visit the site and in so doing their visit should be planned to coincide with spring high water tides so that they can fully understand the problems of coming on to and leaving the island during certain tides, problems that can be supported by the various emergency agencies should they wish to make enquiries of them.

b. b. I and many others who bothered to watch the "Zoom" meeting of the Council where outline planning permission was given were disappointed to note that certain Councillors spoke against the application and then abstained allowing the application to be passed. Perhaps this is quite normal at such meetings, I do not know as this is the first time I have been involved, albeit as a spectator, in such meetings.

Thank you for this opportunity and one last point I cannot locate the reference number of my original objection but hopefully you will have this on your records if it is relevant.

Yours sincerely,

I L Bates