

10 October 2023

Erewash Planning Department

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: APPLICATION NUMBER 0923/0024 GREENBELT LAND

I have been objecting to the above proposal at every available opportunity, I am opposed to this as I do not believe this is an environmentally friendly development on every level.

When my husband came home recently he had taken a photo (please see below) of a poster that you have planted on a gate near Spondon Allotments. There are minimal people who use this lane, some walkers and dog walkers, so I question the rationale behind this.



It appears this development has been expedited (query) by the developer to avoid the upcoming change in law for Climate Change Emergency which will come into effect on 1st January 2024 negating BNG.

A one day modelling of traffic which took place in March is impossible to gauge a true reflection of traffic that impacts all the lives of the residents of Spondon, there will be public safety risks of walkers and cycling to and from this site partially due to lack of footway provisions, (none exist). These residents will not be walking at least 1.2 miles to the nearest facility and certainly won't be walking for their shopping either. There is a great risk of people coming to harm especially the elderly and vulnerable sooner rather than later as a result of a road traffic accident especially with increasing vehicles. Vehicles are already using alternative routes to escape the volume of traffic in Spondon, Sandringham Drive is becoming a rat run for people to escape the queues which isn't a good option given that there is a Primary and Junior school in this vicinity. Moor End is constantly used as a cut through again there is a lot of activity surrounding this area with children walking and cycling to and from school, Locko Road is also seeing an increase in traffic which is en-route to West Park School.

I have an elderly fiercely independent mother of 86 years who has on numerous occasions found it impossible to get through to the GP let alone get an appointment in Spondon, in the past my mother has got onto a bus into Derby, then from Derby to Chaddesden, sadly this is no longer an option for her and this is not really acceptable for our elderly, this will only get worse if the plans are passed for the 263 homes that will also be serviced by an already overstretched amenity including the monetary expense this will incur for the Spondon residents/local council. If and when family members can assist we do drive her to her appointment at Parkfields in Chaddesden which I did recently, this adds an extra unnecessary burden to the already busy traffic problem in Spondon and will also have an impact on the environment.

I am concerned that my mother crosses Dale Road as it stands today, it doesn't bear thinking about if there is going to be so much more traffic from the development, I fear her independence will be compromised, I know her mental health will suffer greatly as she really enjoys meeting her friends in Derby at least once a week. I think she will increasingly find it intolerable to access the bus as she often comments on the safety of crossing Dale Road, and having to leave the house so much earlier so that she does not miss the bus due to the volume of traffic. Invariably the bus is full when it reaches our area so you can only imagine what it will be like if the development goes ahead, again this will have a massive impact on our elderly residents of their lifeline of this very valuable service. It will also have a massive impact on the workforce that commute by public transport as it will for students in higher education due to West Park not having a Sixth form; therefore, anyone wanting to attend further education will probably rely on public transport.

Another amenity that is worrying is the school places at West Park, I have a grandchild, many nieces and nephews who will want to attend West Park, they will have further competition from potentially 263 households that will apply to a school that is already oversubscribed.

I am really surprised that designated Greenbelt land can be pursued for development, as NPPF stipulates that this can only be considered under "Special Circumstances" (can we please have access to the data to show how you deem this piece of land acquired under special circumstances) especially as this will have a massive impact on Ancient Woodland and wildlife, the open space will be reduced drastically and although the deer are not a protected species it is still abhorrent to dismiss them in this manner, this could potentially cause damage to the Ancient Woods with a closer proximity. I do believe this could be an easy option for anti-social behaviour, litter, fire and destruction of the woods.

It is a depressing thought that Greenbelt land can be used in this manner when I like so many people try to do so much for the environment regarding making our gardens user friendly for hedgehogs, insects and birds, planting as many trees, shrubs and plants, some to combat the flooding in the garden, for the EBC to come along and desecrate our Ancient Woods.

The proposed development will create a divorced and disconnected community whilst changing the dynamics of the Spondon boundaries and overstretched facilities.

Part of mine and my husband's leisure time is dining at Bartlewood Lodge and The Cat and Fiddle, I cannot think of anything worse than fighting through even more traffic. I also regularly visit my father's resting place at Dale Hill, it is a nightmare trying to turn right into Bartlewood Lodge and Dale Hill and I question the safety of car users, motorbikes and cyclists from the traffic from this development especially as there are so many junctions along the top end of Dale Road.

I have grave concerns regarding the air pollution, as a result of this I often resist using Dale Road when I am out dog walking or visiting the village, unfortunately, sometimes it is unavoidable when visiting family, but as an asthmatic I do find the fumes from passing vehicles unbearable especially during peak times, if this development does go ahead I personally feel it will have an impact on my wellbeing and freedom to roam Spondon as I feel I should be able to, as I am sure many elderly residents do too.

On occasions and like many Spondon residents we unfortunately do have to visit Derby during peak times, which I find very stressful due to the volume of traffic, for example, I had to take my mother to Spa Medica Derby on two separate occasions for her cataract operation, to ensure we arrived at the given time we added an extra 30 minutes to our journey to allow for the build-up of traffic that leaves Spondon, so I am unsure what the proposal of a slip road at the bottom of Willowcroft Road will solve as most of the traffic leaving Spondon is heading towards Derby.

Regards

MRS G HICKING

