

Woodview

Moss Lane

Bettisfield

SY13 2LS

19.9.2023

Planning Appeal Land East of Cadney Lane Bettisfield

P/2022/0869

Dear Sir

I am writing to put forward my objections to the planning application and subsequent appeal as noted above.

Firstly, Bettisfield is a hamlet and such does not have the infrastructure to support this planning application to build 9 more houses. I must emphasise that this planning application and subsequently the appeal is outside of the WCBC Unitary Development Plan and as such should not be allowed to proceed.

I must stress to you that Bettisfield is not a village: it is a hamlet. We have no built pathways which forces us to walk along the roads with no street lighting which already puts our personal safety at risk. We have no bus service, so car use is essential. Our roads do not get repaired often and have many pot holes and uneven surfaces which affect the condition of our vehicles. Building more dwellings is going to jeopardise our safety further by putting more pressure on the roads with more cars and heavy duty work vehicles up and down. We have an ageing population which we care about as should WCBC. They are already struggling to walk or ride mobility scooters on unsafe surfaces. Their safety must not be compromised.

WCBC itself has already acknowledged that there is next to no infrastructure in Bettisfield. We are not connected to the main sewerage systems. We have cesspits which are emptied regularly by heavy trucks. Having extra housing – 9 houses with families – to cater for and emptied out would mean even more sewage disposal trucks up and down the village. The congestion, noise and smell would be unbearable. Not to mention that the heavy vehicles would impact the already poor road surfaces further. We have no local shop, a school, post office or doctor. There is nothing here to support more residential buildings unless the planner intends to also build these for us.

As WCBC is clearly aware, there is a high water table in Bettisfield and the hamlet is a natural sump. Therefore the area is prone to serious flooding. It is unsafe to build more on what is marsh land – the land is simply not conducive to supporting 9 more dwellings.

Bettisfield is known for its natural beauty. I am sure the Council is proud of this and wants to do what is right to protect the area. We are very lucky to have Great Crested Newts which are an invaluable part of our eco system. There are also [REDACTED] and foxes who have their natural pathways in and around this area. There is also a substantial length of hedgerow between the Hawthorns and Bank house. This has been there growing for generations. The hamlet has already lost too many hedgerows due to developers who have no regard for the environment. Hedgerows are subject to a protection order (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) so we should not be building on such areas and driving any creature out of its habitat. For your information I will be forwarding a copy of the proposed planning application and appeal to the RSPB of which I am a member.

In my view, there is nothing at all that has changed on the proposed site since the last planning refusal. Consequently, I cannot understand how this planning application/appeal can proceed in any way without causing a huge amount of damage to this area – both to the residents and the environment.

I ask that you consider my objections carefully when considering your decision.

Regards

Stuart Price