HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL
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Proposal regarding Horsefield Site (EM08a) in Emsworth

To whom it may concern.

I write in relation to the proposal to build ninety houses on the Horsefield site in Emsworth; a proposal which seems to have been under discussion at various times since I moved to Emsworth in the early 1970's. Sadly the proposal is now under serious consideration and, as a result, I wish to explain why I am very much against this.

I have no doubt that I am one of many who are against this proposal simply because this is part of an area of great natural beauty and significance, is part of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape, formerly an Area of National Beauty, and despite the fact that HBC has commitments to build more houses, it would be a great shame to lose this small bit of natural beauty. I am sure this applies to not only people like me who have lived in the area for many years but also those who have recently moved into the newly-built homes on sites such as Saxon Court and those to the north of Emsworth who probably thought that they were moving into an area separated from other towns by green areas.

However I have two further point to make.

Firstly, when the Havant Crematorium was proposed, people protested against it believing that it would be the tip of the iceberg and that further, adjacent, development would ensue. HBC said no, it would not happen – and then allowed developers to build on the entire surrounding open area. I would suggest that this is likely to happen, should development of Horsefield be allowed, with the entire area between the A259 and the foreshore and between the A27 and the edge of the built-up area to the west of Emsworth. Developers would apply great pressure in order to gain access to build on the remaining area and particularly delighted to have the opportunity to build lucrative housing so close to the foreshore.

This brings me to my second point which is that the people of Emsworth have been let down by the fact that HBC have agreed to developments in the surrounding area provided that developers include suitable drainage, flood protection, access roads and facilities such as surgeries and shops. When the developers bring pressure to bear through Government, HBC have had to allow the developers to omit these basic necessities. So, on this occasion - when the law protects this land inside the Chichester Harbour National Landscape – the HBC should seize the opportunity to say no to the developers and the investors, who have held onto this piece of land for many years awaiting the opportunity to make maximum gain from it.

There are exceptional circumstances, and it is in the public interest, to ensure that all of this land is retained as it currently stands. There are no exceptional circumstances nor public interest in building upon it.



John Ambler

Sent to:
Local Plan Pre-Submission Consultation,
Planning Service,
Havant Borough Council
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant
PO9 2AX