

From: Ruby Goddard [REDACTED] >
Sent: 24 May 2022 12:19
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Ref: S62A/22/0000002 - Chase Homes/Saffron Walden Friends School

To Whom It May Concern,

Letter of objection: Ref. S62A/22/0000002
Former Friends School site, Mount Pleasant Road, Saffron Walden, Essex

-
This letter is to express my objection to the above application made by Chase Homes. Please see the following reasons:

- Saffron Walden is already at full capacity. The roads are unable to handle the sheer amount of cars at present - it is common to experience traffic jams of up to 20 minutes to get from Mount Pleasant Road to the town centre. Not only is this hugely inconvenient to existing residents, but the pollution and air quality must also be considered. The roads themselves are notoriously poor - with many potholes present throughout the town - several specifically on Mount Pleasant Road, Debden Road and Borough Lane. The development of 96 (just initial) new homes would cause far more wear on the roads, traffic jams, and pollution.
- Chase Homes have previously failed to obtain planning permission to build on the old school playing fields. This new application appears to attempt to present the two sites as separate - when they should be considered as a whole.
- Similarly to the roads, Saffron Walden does not have the infrastructure to cope with even the current residents - let alone with the many other new homes being developed. For example, it is almost impossible to get a Doctors appointment - I had to speak with a nurse a few weeks ago, and the soonest they could accommodate even a phone call was in 5 days time. There is a Saffron Walden Residents Facebook group, and often people are expressing their concerns over not being able to get appointments. I recall one person saying they tried phoning at 8am, making 96 calls before they were able to be connected some 45 minutes later. They were told all appointments had been taken and to call back again the next day - when the same thing happens again.
- The Friends School was donated by George Gibson to the community, for educational purposes. Over development would not be in keeping with his wishes for the site. It is my understanding that SWCHS is oversubscribed - it seems a waste that a building already perfectly set up for educational purposes is to be turned into yet more residential units. The school should be an extension of SWCHS - housing the sixth form.

It is such a shame that a beautiful, pleasant place to live such as Saffron Walden is being ruined by relentless overdevelopment. Whilst I fully understand and support the need for housing (most importantly affordable housing), it is unwise to simply keep adding new homes around what is already struggling infrastructure.

I strongly urge therefore that this application is refused.

Yours sincerely

Ruby Goddard