

**From:** Annabel Cottam [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 November 2022 17:25  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** S62A/2022/0012

From :

Mr and Mrs G Cottam  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir,

I write to you in reference to the above planning application, I would implore you not let this application be successful, for many reasons as detailed below.

I have lived in this immediate area all of my life, the past 67 years, it is now totally unrecognisable. You will see that my address is Henham, some 5/7 years ago an application was lodged to build in excess of 5,000 homes between the two villages of Henham and Elsenham and became named 'Helsenham'. Good sense prevailed and the application was not granted. HOWEVER, many smaller applications have been granted since then and we have exceeded (in many people's opinion, mine included) the quantity of houses that this rural area can take.

We simply do not have the infrastructure, or the roads for these continuing houses to be built. Trying to reach Bishop's Stortford to work, a journey that used to take 15/20 minutes now takes at least an hour at busy times. Traffic trying to negotiate through Stansted Mountfitchet, a small town which over the years has more than double in size, has narrow roads with single file traffic due to small terrace houses that have no off road parking. Grove Hill is a particularly difficult road to negotiate at any time of the day single file traffic with traffic lights at either end. This route is used by many large lorries as well as public transport and school buses, which makes the negotiation extremely difficult at times. The road is currently full of pot holes and simply cannot take anymore traffic. A development of 300 homes by Bloor are currently under construction, where will these families will find schooling for their children, primary or secondary, doctors, dentists, facilities for shopping is beyond me. Everything in this area is stretched to breaking point. The whole area of Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow, Stansted, Bishop's Stortford and Elsenham has been developed extensively. We cannot have any further housing developments.

Elsenham primary school is already full, before the Bloor homes are occupied. School drop off and pick up times are difficult, once again our 'villages' do not have the capacity for multiple vehicles to park safely and collect young children. This is the same situation in Henham.

Everyday experience of the roads is very different to any of the transport assessments that have been carried out. Yes, there can be quiet times to travel this road but at other times it can become completely gridlocked due to large vehicles, parked cars and ignorant and impatient drivers. There is very limited public transport in Elsenham therefore most people taking their children to secondary school or to work would have to use the roads through Stansted Mountfitchet. They would also have to travel to either Bishop's Stortford or Saffron Walden to shop. Bishop's Stortford has particularly inadequate shopping in the town. The high street is full of vaping shops, charity shops or phone

shops. Or units that are vacant and have been for sometime. Having grown up in the area I have experienced many changes, and yes 55/60 years ago Bishop's Stortford was a thriving market town with a large variety of shops where all needs could be met. Yes, we can all shop online and have our groceries and other goods delivered by large vans polluting the environment, there is a much bigger picture to be considered here.

I believe that in 2016 the secretary of state turned down an application for 800 dwellings on land included in the current application as being unsustainable. Six years down the line we have had other applications go through (not quite sure how or why ? ) but still applications keep being submitted. Enough is enough, the area can not allow any further housing applications to be passed. The quality of life in this rural part on the Essex/Hertfordshire border has been decimated.

Please do not allow this application to be granted.

I hope that you will give my comments due consideration when making your decision.

Kind Regards  
Gavin & Annabel Cottam