

From: Geoff Hill [REDACTED]

Date: 15 November 2022 at 16:16:05 GMT

To: section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Subject: Section 62A Planning Application: S62A/2022/0012 - Land East of Station Road, Elsenham

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Dear Planning Inspector

Regarding the above planning application, I wish to object in regard to the following reasons:

Density of housing in the area has increased dramatically, overall the village of Elsenham has more than doubled in housing numbers over the past few years without any corresponding increase or improvement of facilities, in particular transport.

The roads providing access to the village are mainly rural, they are winding and lack width. They are also crumbling under the increased traffic flow, both to service the inhabitants of new developments and to develop the sites with construction materials. The roads are becoming increasingly dangerous and there have been two recent fatalities in road traffic accidents in the last few months.

Developers cite that residents of new developments would use public transport and would be discouraged from using cars by a reduction of car parking space and facilities. This is not the case in the real world, each new house attracts at least one, usually two, vehicles, which then increase congestion on local roads.

Each new development is causing a strain on local infrastructure, in particular water and waste water management. Water pressure to households is fairly poor and seems to reduce with each new development. Flooding, particularly of the station area in Elsenham, is becoming a problem. Waste water removal from existing housing is overwhelming the drainage system and making the area near the station dangerous in terms of driving, pedestrian access to the station and the ability of traffic to navigate into and out of the village. This flooding is being exacerbated by the climate change we are experiencing which has brought more intense rainfall in sudden and torrential downpours, inundating the area.

The new developments are all intended for the use of greenfield sites for housing; this is damaging the natural aspect of the area, disrupting local wild life, destroying the flora of the area and creating a much greater, deleterious, affecting the emissions and carbon release of what was a mainly agricultural and rural environment.

The facilities in the area, shops, schools, surgeries, public transport and roads are unlikely to be able to cope successfully with more growth in housing and population.

Finally, each development seems to be considered as a "one off". Taken in the round, this area and the wider neighbouring areas, have absorbed many thousands on new housing units. The local market towns are increasing exponentially in new housing unit numbers and the neighbouring villages are also growing into green spaces and agricultural areas. This cannot be a sensible planning approach simply to meet government housing targets with no regard for the destruction of ancient and irreplaceable green sites, woodlands and farmland.

Yours faithfully
Geoffrey Hill

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