

**From:** Jangu Banatvala [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 November 2022 13:10  
**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Ref S62A/2022/0012 Land east of station Elsenham

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

I am writing to express my concern about the additional development of 200 houses on the Bloor site abutting Elsenham on Henham Parish Land.

The major subject of my concern relates to my experience not only in medicine but also having served on the Council and Cases Committee of the Medical Defence Union from 1987 - 2004 during which time I saw the cost of medical negligence for errors in maternity care soar. Indeed the medical defence organisations now no longer indemnify obstetric care and the cost is borne by NHS Resolution. A report in the Lancet in 2018 showed that the NHS paid £1.8bn in negligence claims and that the cost of facing the NHS if all claims were successful would be in the order of £65.1bn. Today the cost for negligence would have increased considerably. Two cases alone highlighted in the national press resulted in settlements for £22m and £37m.

Maternity care is dependant upon having sound infrastructure in which team work is essential. The key players are, of course, midwives but as I am sure the planning inspectorate are aware there has been considerable publicity in the medical and national press about the increasing shortage of midwives and those who care for premature babies. I have been in contact with the Royal College of Midwives and I will quote from the College's comments on the current workforce.

*"The College is warning of a midwife exodus as it publishes the results of its annual member experiences of work survey. Over half of midwives surveyed said they were considering leaving their job as a midwife with 57% saying they would leave the NHS next year.*

*Of those midwives who have either left or considering leaving, more than 8 out of 10 were concerned about staffing levels and 2/3rds were not satisfied with the level of care they are currently able to deliver.*

*Alarmingly, the highest level of dissatisfaction of those surveyed came from midwives who had only worked for 5 years or less in the NHS".*

