

Essex County Council
Planning and Development
CG05, County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1QH



The Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services, Central Operations, Temple Q
Bristol

BS1 6PN

Our ref: 48518
Your ref: S62A/2020/0016
Date: 17/05/2023

Dear Sir or Madam

**Warish Hall Farm, Takeley
Without Prejudice - UTT/23/90016**

Thank you for providing details of the above Section 62A planning application proposing of 40 dwellings, 37 of which are 2+ Bed, including open space landscaping and associated infrastructure.

When estimating the number of children that a new housing development will generate, and that will require a school place (yield), ECC takes account of the number of houses and flats that are suitable to accommodate children. One-bedroom units and some dwellings, such as student and elderly accommodation, are excluded from the education calculation.

With reference to the details above, a development of this size can be expected to generate the need for up to 3.35 Early Years and Childcare (EY&C) places; 0 primary school places, and 7.40 secondary school places.

Please note that any developer contribution figures referred to in this letter are calculations only, and that final payments will be based on the actual dwelling unit mix and the inclusion of indexation.

Early Years and Childcare

Essex County Council has a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to ensure that there is sufficient and accessible high-quality early years and childcare provision to meet local demand and parental choice. This includes provision of childcare places for children aged between 0-5 years as well as wrap around provision for school aged children (5-11 or up to 19 with additional needs).

The proposed development is located within Takeley ward (postcode CN22 6NZ) and will create the need for an additional 3.33 childcare places.

According to latest available childcare sufficiency data, there are 20 early years and childcare providers within the ward. Overall, a total of 0 unfilled places were recorded.

Essex County Council has a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to ensure that there is sufficient and accessible high-quality early years and childcare provision to meet local demand. This includes provision of childcare places for children aged between 0-5 years as well as wrap around provision for school aged children (5-11 or up to 19 with

additional needs).

Although there is some EY&C capacity in the area, the data shows insufficient provision to meet the additional demand created by this development. It is thereby proposed that a contribution towards the creation of 3.33 new places is requested.

The demand generated by this development would require a contribution towards the creation of additional EY&C places. A developer contribution of £57,502.00 index linked to Q1-2020 is sought to mitigate its impact on local early years & childcare provision. This equates to £17,268.00 per place.

Primary Education

As there are sufficient places available in the area, a developers' contribution towards new primary school places will not be required for this application.

Secondary Education

The Priority Admissions Area secondary school for this development would be Forest Hall, which has a Published Admissions Number of 132 places per year. The school currently has some unfilled capacity but, according to data provided by the Department for Education, the number of children for whom this is their nearest school is already far higher than the number of available places. Action has not, so far, been required due to parental preference. As permitted housing development in the area is completed, in particular in Bishop's Stortford, it is anticipated that Forest Hall will fill and may need to expand. The latest forecasts and plans for the area are set out in the Essex School Organisation Service's Ten Year Plan.

The demand generated by this development would require a contribution towards the creation of additional Secondary Education places. A developer contribution of £175,935.00 index linked to Q1-2020, is sought to mitigate its impact on local secondary school provision. This equates to £23,775 per place.

A contribution toward Post16 education is not required at this time. However, in accordance with the Essex County Council Developers' Guide to Infrastructure Contributions (Revised 2020), an Employment and Skills Plan (ESP) should be developed to set out how the developer will engage with and maximise local labour and skills opportunities.

School Transport

Having reviewed the proximity of the site to the closest primary school to this development is Takeley Primary School. I have carried out a desktop inspection of the route to this school, and it would be deemed as available to be walked, accompanied as necessary by an Adult. Therefore, there would not be a requirement for a school transport contribution to this school.

Essex County Council will not be seeking a school transport contribution at this time for Primary School Transport. However, the developer should ensure that safe direct walking and cycling routes to local primary schools are available.

Having reviewed the proximity of the site to the nearest Secondary school, The closest secondary school to this development is The Helena Romanes School. As this school is over 3 miles away from the development, they would be entitled to transport under the Education Transport policy, so there would be a requirement for a school transport contribution to this establishment as the distance is in excess of the statutory walking distance, therefore, Essex County Council will be seeking a school transport contribution towards Secondary school transport. Based on 7.40 pupils, the transport contribution would be £36,837.00 index linked to Q2 2021.

Libraries

ECC may seek contributions to support the expansion of the library service to meet customer needs generated by residential developments of 20+ homes.

The provision of a Library Service is a statutory duty under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act and it's increasingly become a shared gateway for other services such as for accessing digital information and communications.

The suggested population increase brought about by the proposed development is expected to create additional usage of the nearest library. A developer contribution of £3,112.00 is therefore considered necessary to improve, enhance and extend the facilities and services provided. This equates to £77.80 per unit, index linked to April 2020.

Monitoring Fees

In order to secure the delivery of the various infrastructure improvements and to meet the needs arising from development growth, ECC needs to monitor Section 106 planning obligations to ensure they are fully complied with on all matters. ECC has a resultant obligation to ensure the money is received and spent on those projects addressing the needs for which it was sought and secured. To carry out this work, ECC employs a staff resource and charges an administration/monitoring fee towards funding this requirement. The Monitoring Fee will be charged at a rate of £550 per obligation (financial and otherwise). On large developments the Monitoring Fee will be calculated using a bespoke approach.

Employment and Skills

Both Central and Local Government have a crucial role to play in identifying opportunities to maximise employment, apprenticeships, and to invest in skills to realise personal and economic aspirations.

ECC has a role to play in supporting Local Planning Authorities and helping to ensure that the development industry has the necessary skills to build the homes and communities the county needs. ECC supports Uttlesford District Council in securing obligations which will deliver against this crucial role in supporting employment and skills in the district.

In the current economic climate and national skills shortage, ECC supports Uttlesford District Council in requiring developers to prepare an 'Employment and Skills Plan' (ESP) seeking to drive forward an increase in construction employability levels and workforce numbers. These plans will help to address negative perceptions of the sector and develop a strong future pipeline. This is referred to as the 'development phase'. ECC also supports Uttlesford District Council in requiring landowners to produce an ESP for commercial developments, to enable wider employment opportunities for those requiring additional support to enter the job market. This is referred to as the 'end-use phase'. Additionally, ECC encourages Uttlesford District Council to consider the inclusion of other requirements, including financial contributions, to support appropriate employment and skills outcomes as a result of this development.

In view of the above, I request on behalf of Essex County Council that if planning permission for this development is granted it should be subject to a section 106 agreement to mitigate its impact on Early Years and Childcare, Secondary Education, School Transport and Libraries.

The contributions requested have been considered in connection with the CIL Regulations 2010 (as Amended) and are CIL compliant. Our standard formula s106 agreement clauses that ensure the contribution would be necessary and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development are available from Essex Legal Services.

If your council were minded to refuse the application, ECC request that we are

automatically consulted on any appeal or further application relating to the site.
Thank you for consulting this authority in respect of this application.

Yours faithfully

Samantha Blackwell
Infrastructure Planning Officer

Telephone

E-mail

