

From: Paul Jarvis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2024 4:55 PM
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Land South of Bedwell Road, Elsenham

Sir/madam.

I write with regard to application S62A/2024/0049 Land South of Bedwell Road, Elsenham.

Leaving aside the obvious concerns of noise and transport infrastructure, I would be grateful if the Inspectorate would consider the amenities of Elsenham as a village that has grown beyond recognition in terms of housing and population over the past 20 years.

I have lived in Elsenham since 1997, when the village was blessed with a Recreation Ground, tennis courts, a bowls clubs, two pubs, a cricket field, a petrol station with shop, a small parade of shops and a newsagent. Since then, one of the pubs has disappeared, while the other has regularly struggled, having changed hands on numerous occasions and having had to temporarily close down more than once. The cricket field is long gone without being replaced, the petrol station and shop no longer exists and the newsagent is now a small station cafe.

In this time, there have been no additions to the amenities of Elsenham, while the population has roughly doubled and is likely to do so again. The parade of shops is no longer fit for a village of the scale this one is becoming, and the parking facilities there are woefully inadequate, having space for no more than 8 vehicles. Of course, the housing developers come up with ideas such as handing out bicycle vouchers to new residents as a solution, but in reality, it's very obvious that increasingly time-pressed residents are only going to get in their car, regardless of whether they own a bike. Eventually, this will result in gridlock and angry confrontation.

In recognition of the village's diminishing and inadequate amenities, our Parish Council is working to build a new community centre which could house a cafe and many other communal activities, which Elsenham so desperately needs. Unfortunately, not all of the many new developments here are subject to section 106 obligations requiring them to contribute toward the considerable cost of such a project. As a result, there is still no certainty that the project will be able to proceed.

All of this leads me to conclude that Elsenham is at risk of social breakdown should the current trend continue of relentless housebuilding with no addition to the already inadequate amenities. The village needs a larger local shopping area with adequate parking, as well as a roof where people can gather freely as a community. The doctors surgery also requires additional parking space.

I am not unaware of the need for new housing, both in this district and in the country, nor am I opposed to it. However, this needs to be done responsibly, providing an adequate infrastructure to support an increasing population. Unfortunately, in the case

of Elsenham, this has so far been overlooked. I would urge that you take this into consideration when deciding on this application and others for this village.

Regards, Paul Jarvis