

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, September 20, 2024 5:29 PM

**To:** Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

**Subject:** S62A/2024/0057 - Former Friends School Field, Mount Pleasant Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 3EB

**S62A/2024/0057 - Former Friends School Field, Mount Pleasant Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 3EB**

I object to this development proposal on the following grounds:

1. The site still designated as a playing field. The construction of 91 dwellings covering the majority of the site contravenes national and local planning policies designed to protect open space, sports fields, and other community facilities.
2. The developer is clearly not proposing replacement facilities that are at least as good in terms of quantity, quality and location. There are no other suitable sites within Saffron Walden that provide such a substantial area of green space which has traditionally been enjoyed by sports clubs from the wider community.
3. The small area retained as a playing field is sufficient for only one full-sized pitch or two smaller pitches and is therefore unlikely to be large enough to work as a base for a local sports club for children or adults.
4. The developer's assertion that the proposal is offering new recreational space is disingenuous. The comparison should be with the playing field as it was before site was taken over by Chase, since which time it has been locked away and unavailable to local sports clubs.
5. Traffic, road safety and air quality are also major concerns both in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development and in Saffron Walden more widely. The major residential thoroughfares of Mount Pleasant Road, Peaslands Road and Thaxted Road are already congested at peak times, and this is before the completion of the adjoining former Friends School site, as well as several developments currently under construction or approved in Thaxted Road and Radwinter Road.

This is a unique area of open space in Saffron Walden that will become ever more important as the footprint of the town expands to the west.

Amanda Haselton

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