

From: Simon Chivers [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 July 2025 13:04
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Saffron Walden planning application S62A/2025/0107

Hi,

As a follow-up to this recent application from Chase homes (S62A/2025/0107), I think my comments below on the previous failed application are equally valid for this subsequent application.

I am not sure the small reduction in number of houses offsets anything that was problematic in the previous application.

Of interest, some nesting hawks have returned to the field that is proposed to being developed and are out hunting daily, clearly any additional building would drive these birds away.

With the volume of other housing going up around Saffron Walden and the associated demand on the local infrastructure, maintaining this green space, ideally with some sort of community provision (for scouts and sports groups etc..) would be the most optimal use of this land.

Best regards,

Simon

On Tuesday 10 September 2024 at 13:18:04 BST, Simon Chivers [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi,

Based on the planning application (your ref S62A/2024/0057), please find some feedback below:

In essence, I really don't believe the current plan is justifiable and this is the reason why this plan (or an initial version of) was initially rejected.

I think the ongoing redevelopment of old school makes sense, not that Chase have made a start on this yet. Chase have demolished numerous modern school building and erected new homes based on the approved planning application on this site. I think the eventual redevelopment of the old school building will be a stunning addition to Saffron Walden.

The current proposal is to build new houses on untouched green space and woodland, it was previously the school playing fields and forest school space (this surely can't make sense, even with the current push for more homes, other local locations must make more sense than this). It is one of only 2 remaining green spaces in Saffron Walden, so it makes no sense to build houses on it (once it is gone it is gone forever). Plenty of development is ongoing around the outskirts of Saffron Walden, so it makes much more sense to focus building new and more affordable homes at those sites and not this.

Any provision of additional sports facilities on the site would be fantastic, but this should have been part of the currently approved application, currently this add on feels like an inappropriate way of leveraging approval for building houses on a truly untouched green field site. In addition,

the currently approved plan includes redevelopment of the school swimming pool, which Chase are now seeking not to perform, so I do wonder if the provision of sports facilities might meet the same fate in a subsequent amendment to this plan if accepted.

So, I strongly hope that the current plan by Chase homes is rejected. I appreciate that for them this is about making a profit from the purchase of the school a few years ago, but I would expect that the currently approved planned work would more than recoup the initial investment they made in this site.

I live locally, details below, and fully recognise the need for more and affordable local housing and believe that Saffron Walden can support this, but selecting the location should be more considered than this proposal by Chase homes.

Best regards,

Simon Chivers

[REDACTED]

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