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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 02 July 2025 18:49

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

Subject: Re S62A/2025/0107 Former Friends School Mount Pleasant Road Saffron Walden

Dear Planning Inspectorate

I am writing to express my objections to the proposed erection of a further 75 dwellings on the former Friends school field site in Mount Pleasant Road Saffron Walden.

Firstly, these school fields are part of the designated conservation areas of Saffron Walden (Zone 6) and this fact was one of the major reasons why the very first planning application by Chase Homes was rejected in 2019.

These school fields are still a designated conservation area and should continue to be protected from development, particularly as the area is part of the history and character of the town of Saffron Walden . The fields also support a variety of wildlife and their habitats. The proposed plan shows the destruction of these varied well established habitats, not only with with houses etc but with a new woodland walk/ area ' which will replace the existing vegetation/ habitats and some mature trees.

Secondly the traffic along Peaslands Rd/ Mount Pleasant Road has become very heavy since the Friends School closed, particularly as it is now being used as 'link' road to avoid the town centre /roadworks and gridlocks frequently occur at peak times . Traffic will only increase further due to the proposed development. It is my understanding that this is not reflected in the traffic / routes information provided and with three schools accessed by this route, the safety of pedestrians (children especially) is at risk in my opinion.

Thirdly, the proposed development shows a extremely limited area (far smaller than previously available for use as a sports facility by the community). In particular the proposed development almost meets the boundaries of the cricket pitch, which will make retrieving balls very difficult. Therefore I don't feel that the provision of this limited area meets the needs of Saffron Walden's sporting community, who regularly used the sports field in the past for a variety of games including cricket .

Fourthly the current provision of new homes / houses in Saffron Walden has substantially increased (Radwinter Road, Thaxted Road) since the last planning application for building on the playing fields was submitted (2024) and a new local plan is well under way. Therefore the I ask that this existing and planned housing provision by Saffron Walden town and district council is taken into account when the protection of the playing fields from development is considered.

Kind Regards

Mrs M Howard.