

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
Havant & East Hampshire
26 Beach Road
Emsworth
Hampshire PO10 7JS



The Planning Inspectorate
Room 3/19
Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN

Dear Sirs,

Planning Application No.APP/10/00497
LPA: Havant Borough Council
Appeal Reference APP/X1735A/11/2160369/NWF
Applicants: Crayfern Homes

We are against the appeal proposals mainly for the reason given in Havant Council's notice of decision dated 22nd June 2011 and also for the reasons set out in our own letter to the LPA of an earlier date objecting to the original application

The Planning Inspectorate's booklet 'Guide to taking part in planning appeals' highlights the importance of sustainable development. It describes it as '*the core principle underpinning planning. At the heart of sustainable development is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations.*' The refusal by Havant Council of this application resonates exactly with this principle. It acknowledges that construction of new homes on green field site only metres from an increasingly noisy and polluting motorway strikes at the heart of the principle of providing a better quality of life now and in the future.

The applicants appear not even to recognise this as a potential problem despite the fact, according to their own consultant's report, compiled before the opening of A3M Hindhead tunnel, that most of the development site falls within Noise Exposure Categories B specified in PPG 24 in which some mitigation measure would normally be taken. Defra's local noise map shows areas in close proximity to the development site actually exceeding 75dBA, the level at which residential development would be refused per se. The developers' response is to claim that the positioning of the new houses relative to the noise source is such as to make sound intrusion, if not negligible, then acceptable to future occupants. This assumption, as far as we can see, remains untested. Even so where would it leave families trying to enjoy their gardens on a fine day?

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Many of our members and neighbours live in the vicinity of the A27 trunk road between Havant and Chichester. They know from experience how misunderstood traffic noise can be. Millions of pounds were paid out during the nineties following a protracted battle led by the local MP to residents in compensation for traffic noise ruining their quality of life. Allowing this appeal would simply repeat the mistakes of the past and suggest lessons had not been learned.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) in various papers has long recognised the impact of unacceptable traffic noise on public health. As well as physical health problems including hearing loss, raised blood pressure and heart disease, the psychological effects of annoyance and sleep deprivation can also have extremely serious consequences. Evidence shows that traffic noise also hinders communication and learning processes, especially in children.

Havant Core strategy CS 16 wants to create living space where people can live, work and relax. The recently published draft NPPF mentions, among others, the core principles of good planning:

"Planning policies and decisions should take account of and support local strategies to improve health and wellbeing for all planning policies and decisions should always seek to secure a good standard of amenity for existing and future occupants of land and buildings"

We submit that this application breaches the spirit and the letter of these various core principles and urge that Havant Council's decision should stand. If sustainability is to rise above mere rhetoric this, in our opinion, is a classic test case

Yours sincerely

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