



HATFIELD BROAD OAK PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Ernie Fenwick

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Uttlesford District Council
Planning Department
Council Offices
London Road
Saffron Walden

29 November 2021

Dear Sirs

Hatfield Broad Oak PC Call for sites.

Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council's comments on Methodology and Technical Data on the Call for Sites and HBO 004 RES and HBO 001 in particular.

Desktop studies are severely limited. In this case, 'As the crow flies' measurements are easy to obtain but do not reflect accurate walking or cycling timings. Walking speeds of adults at 3 miles per hour/4.8 km per average person are used for both adults and children, whereas all adults know that the journeys to and from school with pushchairs and children is so much longer than the return solo journeys. In fact, there are no Mary Poppinses and a lot of journeys from these sites will be by car.

It is impossible to know which points are being measured from and to. In a large site the point chosen will not reflect accurate distances from other parts of the site to school, the bus network, local services etc. In the case of HBO 004 residents in dwellings in the NW corner will have to walk down to the SE corner to the access to the development then up the road to a crossing point by the small traffic island to cross the road to the single footpath on the west side of the B183. This will radically increase some actual walking times.

This footpath on the west side of the B183 crosses the bridge over the Flitch Way which cannot be widened. It is very narrow for adults and children alike, vulnerable pedestrians, those with pushchairs, wheel chairs and mobility scooters, bringing them close to traffic including HGVs.

Indeed, a survey at Takeley Four Ashes traffic lights at the B1256/B183 junction on Tue 13 Jun, 2017 showed a 12-hour total of 6,171 vehicles entering and exiting the B183 South, of which the vast majority would have passed this site. About 9.7% of these were LGV2-HGV2 categories. The B183 is not safe enough for pedestrians, especially children and cyclists and the volume of traffic has increased year on year.

HBO PC are concerned that suggested walking routes along roads which have no footpaths, no street lighting, and are derestricted, narrow and busy are not suitable as walking routes especially for children and vulnerable pedestrians and should not be recommended.

PRoWs such as the Flitch Way - a Linear Country Park administered by ECC also cannot be included in walking routes as they are unlit and not constructed to Highways' footpath standards.



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The Friends of the Flitch Way and Parish Councils have completely endorsed UDC's decision not to add any further access points to the Flitch Way to try to conserve the surface of this path and control footfall in Hatfield Forest where erosion is proving a problem.

Yours sincerely

Ernie Fenwick
Clerk to Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council