

Halstead Town Council has no objections to this brownfield site being developed. It has been a blot on the landscape ever since Hunwick's engineering was demolished. However, due to its unusually close proximity to residential dwellings, any plans there *must* prioritise the neighbouring housing in Kings Road, and the needs of the residents who live there. This application does neither.

For decades the engineering works was accessed almost daily, from the corner of Factory Lane and Parsonage Street, by heavy haulage HGVs, with minimal inconvenience to anybody, but this new development will see new entrances in Kings Road, which will have very serious and, I'm sure, distressing consequences for the residents there. It seems we have an application that has been designed with no consideration to the surrounding environment at all.

There is little in-curtilage parking in Kings Road and most people have to park on the street - and the street is full. If this development goes ahead in its current form, residents will be prevented from parking outside, or close to their homes. And where are they expected to park? Already Balls Chase from the mini roundabout, towards Ravens Avenue is clogged with parking. Tidings Hill is too narrow and Parsonage Street has no suitable areas. Residents will struggle to get their weekly or monthly shopping home, especially those who are elderly or less mobile and deliveries to their homes will be impeded.

Without close proximity parking, it is highly likely that property values there will drop and the houses will be harder to sell. Who would ever want to be responsible for that?

In respect of the site's layout, the plans show no in-curtilage parking for the residents there either, providing instead rear parking courts. These are so out of favour these days that they are actively discouraged by planners across Essex. Residents hardly use them; they are inconvenient and often feel unsafe and, as a result they will park on the streets or as close to their homes as they can. I note that Essex Police has already commented to this effect.

And then there is the commercial side of the site and its access into Factory Lane West, which is a ridiculously narrow street, heavily used by traffic travelling to the eastern side of town. In our opinion the potential for conflict with construction vehicles makes any access points there, unsafe.

All-in-all, members, this is a flawed design and if it is to be the success we hope it will be, it needs an overhaul. But the success of this new development must not be at the expense of the health, wellbeing and quality of life for the neighbouring residents.

Planning isn't just about accommodating new building, it's about protecting the existing environment; it's about ensuring the population can sustain a happy and healthy lifestyle, and in its present form this new development will deny all that to the residents of Kings Road - and that can't be right. (Approx 2m:50s)