
From: Skinner, Helen

Sent: 26 February 2021 15:15

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Subject: FW: Pump Lane Appeal - Further comments

For information

Kind regards

Helen

Helen Skinner

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Sent: 26 February 2021 15:06

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Subject: Pump Lane Appeal - Further comments

Following the Appellant's submission of further mitigation information by proposing changes to the Bowater and Will Adams roundabouts I would like to make further comments myself.

Initially, I would argue that it is wrong that midway through the Appeal process that the Appellant is permitted to do this. Most people will have submitted their comments on the basis of the initial Planning Application and the Appeal and unless this latest proposal is advertised

or they are able to follow the Appeal daily they will not become aware of what is happening. This provides an unfair advantage to the Appellant.

With regard to the specific proposal to make alterations supposedly to improve the traffic flow, this will have a disruptive impact on the wider area including the highway network. It is not that long ago that major improvements were made on this stretch of the A2 and further works would only contribute to long delays.

During the Appeal the case was made by Mr J Lopez that there should not be an adjournment. The proposals submitted at this late hour underlines the far reaching scale of the housing and associated commercial development and its impact on not just Rainham but the wider area including Gillingham. The latest mitigation proposal is a clear acceptance by the Appellants that their whole planning application is going to be disruptive to the wider community.

There has been an incident this morning on the Lower Rainham Road at the pinch point outside the Three Mariners PH where one way traffic is only possible and is controlled by traffic lights. I am attaching a photograph to illustrate the problem. It should be borne in mind that this has happened when traffic flow is lighter due to coronavirus restrictions so you can imagine the potential delays in normal times.

This week a report has been released regarding the Medway Maritime Hospital in which the Accident and Emergency Department has been rated as 'inadequate'. This follows an unannounced inspection by the CQC in December 2020. Much of this assessment comes at a time when the hospital is under severe pressure and it could be argued that it was unfair for such an inspection to take place in December. However it illustrates how this hospital has struggled for so long to provide the correct standard of care. How the staff must feel in terms of motivation and morale cannot be described when so many of them are physically and mentally drained because of the pandemic. We are led to believe that further pandemics could follow in the years ahead.

This has piled additional pressure on a hospital that can do without having to care for potentially another 5000 people moving into the area. It has been raised by countless Medway residents that the cost of buying many of the proposed properties will be out of reach for them. The priority should be for the Government to fund a new purpose built hospital and to put an end to the use of a Victorian building and outbuildings which has been added onto over the decades.

Finally, I have to stress that the Appellants simply have no further interest in the the area and they and their representatives have demonstrated they are 'hell bent' on a 'win at all cost' approach in getting the planning application agreed. The latest proposal emphasises this.

I therefore urge you to reject the Appeal.



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