

Objections to Planning Application No 6/2018/2768/OUTLINE to build 1100 homes in Ellenbrook Country Park

I strongly object to the planning application to build 1100 homes on the old Aerodrome.

As part of the planning application for the former British Aerospace site, the creation of the country park was recognised as an important amenity for local residents and one that was assured under a Section 106 agreement. It not acceptable for planning to allow the landowners to ride roughshod over the previous agreement. The landowners Arlingtons have now twice attempted to release a section of the land promised to local residents for a country park, to build houses for financial gain without there being any benefit for local residents.

The new planning application covers a significant part of the country park, which when combined with the gravel extraction, the area left for residents to enjoy will cease to be a country park but more of playing field. The area covered by the application is enormous - 67.5 hectares and regardless of the gravel extraction simply removes a very large part of our precious Green Belt.

I also object on the grounds that Hatfield has already taken its fair share of new housing in the borough. The aerodrome has already seen a significant amount of housing built upon it as part of the original 1999 planning permission. In addition to this Symonshyde (1130 homes) and Stanboroughbury (1650 homes) are also proposed in the local plan.

The addition of yet another development will have a major impact on traffic in the local area. The main roads through the area are already at standstill in the rush hour and adding thousands more homes onto an already crowded network will have a big impact on the lives of local residents.

The following list of developments, either built, in progress or proposed in and around the area is not sustainable for the road network.

- Hat 1 Stanboroughbury 1650 homes
- Hat 15 Symonshyde, 1130 homes
- Furzefield, 10 homes
- Comet Hotel redevelopment
- Gravel extraction Brett
- Business Park recent developments - Arla, Land Rover/ Jaguar and McClaren/Aston Martin, Air Business
- Glinwell Nurseries expansion and new farm shop
- Sandpit Lane housing development (over 1000 homes)
- Ellenbrook Meadows housing development (28 homes)
- Pearce recycling expansion
- Beaumont School site housing development (75 homes)
- Cemex gravel extraction expansion 250 lorries per day

This increase in traffic through the area will place an intolerable burden on the road network, using the single carriageway roads between St Albans and Hatfield and I am unconvinced that the cumulative impact of these developments has been fully assessed and understood.

I am also unconvinced that the risk of flooding and bromate pollution has been fully assessed by the appropriate authorities. To reduce the permeable area by such a large area on a site that already has flooding issues does not seem to be an acceptable approach. To build on land and increase the risk of spreading the bromate pollution also seems to be a huge risk. Both the flooding and pollution risks do not appear to be mitigated.

The following is a quote from the Environment Agency in respect to another planning application on the Country Park to build an airfield which highlights the risk for any development in the area.

The proposed site overlies groundwater that is polluted with bromate and bromide. The adjacent, existing CEMEX Hatfield quarry and proposed Bretts 'Ellenbrook' quarry (aka Hatfield Aerodrome quarry) are both required to closely monitor groundwater level and groundwater quality in order to demonstrate that their activities do not significantly change the existing groundwater flow regime, which might cause the groundwater plume of bromate and bromide to move. Any proposed use for this site must demonstrate the same, in proportion to the activities.