Matter 6 – GA3 – Mrs Hutchinson PID number is 1372886

I am a registered respondent who has previously submitted objections regarding the Hammonds Farm and Pigeon proposals. I am writing to update my representation as I do not wish to attend nor speak at the public hearing sessions.

As a retired resident living in Sandon, my future safety and stability depends on functioning local services. Navigating my husband's cancer care since January 2024 has given us direct first hand experience of the capacity issues and pressures facing Broomfield Hospital. Safe, reliable healthcare is fundamental to our future stability here and I am deeply concerned about how the NHS trust can absorb the absurd population growth proposed in the Mid-Essex region. It is already overwhelmed and failing to cope with the existing population and the trust is currently under intensive government recovery measures. This is a dangerous and fundamentally unsound strategy. My husband was forced to seek treatment in London.

The primary care network is under pressure, Baddow Village Surgery has been suspending new patient registrations intermittently for several years. This is an excellent facility and forcing thousands of homes into the Sandon area when the immediate local GP practice is unable to register them is unsustainable and reckless.

I also want to highlight the physical infrastructure failures that challenge the soundness of the Hammonds Farm allocation. The permanent solution for the gridlocked Army & Navy roundabout has never materialised despite years of costly repetitive consultations, a waste of taxpayers' money. This example is clear evidence of the Council's inability to deliver infrastructure. Thousands of new homes will only funnel massive vehicle numbers onto an already vulnerable and strained road network. If the Council cannot be bothered to follow through with improvements to the flow of traffic through this major junction, how are they going to deliver future projects? They already recklessly wasted £212.5 million of taxpayers' money in planning preparations for the failed A12 widening scheme.

The Council relies on the fantasy that thousands of new residents will use public transport, cycle or walk. We are currently witnessing a confusing, and wasteful, "Bus War" between First Bus and Central Connect at the Sandon Park & Ride with near empty buses returning from town with few or no passengers. Vital city bus services, like the C7 through Beehive Lane have been cut back or hollowed out. If the Council cannot maintain functional inner city bus routes for existing suburbs, it cannot claim public transport will support 10,000 new homes.

Corridors like Brick Kiln Road are narrow and dangerous, lacking adequate lighting, pedestrian pavements or crossings necessary to keep school children and residents safe. The road surface continually degrades into deep potholes forcing vehicles into a single-lane track. Sandon residents cannot easily nor safely walk to public transport hubs, they are entirely car dependent as there is very limited, to non-existent, local bus services into Sandon. This is a rural area, not an urban city centre.

This plan appears to be a direct repetition of the failed North Essex Garden Communities Strategy at Marks Tey which independent Inspectors' threw out because the necessary infrastructure could not be guaranteed. Chelmsford Council is repeating the error by pushing forward with thousands of homes at Hammonds Farm and elsewhere. The infrastructure strategy is fundamentally unsound, undeliverable and detached from the physical reality on the ground, and from the community they are supposed to serve. The healthcare and traffic infrastructure are failing to keep up and this is becoming a very undesirable area to live and soon will become much worse.

I request that the Inspectors' protect our community and reject the unsustainable allocations at Hammonds Farm and Sandon.