

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE ON 16th April 2024

Item 6 – 21/02475/FUL – Land East of Great Leighs Racecourse, London Road, Braintree, Essex

Question from Mr F

I have now read the submission by the Highways Agency dd 4th April 2024 regarding the above application.

I find it incredible that the Highways Agency feel that this application will not be detrimental to safety of the highway given that 60 vehicles including heavy good vehicles will use this site. This is made even more surprising in that a planning application (20/02059/FUL) for three residential houses on the same stretch of London Road was point blank refused by the same Highways Agency on the basis it would interfere with the passage of users on the highway and the slowing and turning of vehicles associated with the use of the proposed accesses and would be a detriment of highway safety. I find it incredible that the Highways Agency can be so contradictory, or is it they have wilted under financial and planning pressure.

Having followed this application alongside the overall development for Great Leigh's, I feel the planning process is totally unfair to the local community, heavily favours the large house builders and those with deep pockets, and has multiple financial conflicts between local Government, Central Government, Councillors and those with vested interest in the local area. It is clear that the building consortium always wanted this part of the development on London Road and not in Moulsham Hall Lane where it was originally planned to go. They found every reason not to put it in Moulsham Hall Lane and none to locate in London Road as it increases the saleability of house in the main development. Bottom line is money talks and profit is the one and only reason this part of the development was moved to London Road.

I would like to make it very clear that I am not opposed to this part of the development and everyone has a right to a home, I am however strongly opposed to its location as it is unsuitable and will make London Road even more dangerous for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. It should be located back to Moulsham Hall Lane where it was on the original plans.