

P/OUT/2023/01166 - Land To The South Of Ringwood Road Alderholt

Mixed use development of up to 1,700 dwellings including affordable housing and care provision; 10,000sqm of employment space in the form of a business park; village centre with associated retail, commercial, community and health facilities; open space including the provision of suitable alternative natural greenspace (SANG); biodiversity enhancements; solar array, and new roads, access arrangements and associated infrastructure (Outline Application with all matters reserved apart from access off Hillbury Road)

Fordingbridge Town Council OBJECT to this application for the following reasons:

- This application should not even be considered unless it falls under the Local Plan. Proposals of such scale and likely impact should be assessed under the Local Plan preparation process.
- The Transport report/assessment is inadequate and fails to demonstrate that the highway impact will not be severe. The connecting road from Alderholt to Fordingbridge is so narrow to be almost single track in places and is used on a daily basis by Alderholt residents to access schools, shops, doctors, the library, the petrol station and Salisbury and Southampton. Additional development in Alderholt would further impact this road, Ashford Road, Station Road (which is already proposed for further significant development under the NFDC Local Plan) and the road network in the centre of Fordingbridge. Hampshire County Council has already identified that the roundabout in Fordingbridge will be operating beyond its capacity in the future and that is prior to the proposed new developments in Fordingbridge and any further development of Alderholt.
- The flood risk assessment is inadequate for an application of this size.
- This development relies on the infrastructure in Fordingbridge. Fordingbridge is already proposed for further significant development under the NFDC Local Plan. The additional impact of an extra 1700 dwellings in Alderholt would be too much for the infrastructure of Fordingbridge to cope with. Considerable enhancement of school, employment, retail and community facilities in Alderholt would be needed to offset the additional burden on the facilities in Fordingbridge. Both the NFDC and draft Dorset Local Plan suggest that Fordingbridge and Alderholt are self-contained, however neither have the necessary employment opportunities or shop and leisure facilities to be self-contained.
- The scale of the proposals and likely impact are such that the application is of greater than local interest and should therefore be called in for Secretary of State determination.
- If approved, the application for gravel removal at Midgham would remove another large part of the immediate countryside and further adversely affect residents and roads.