

Objection of Martin Ellingham (22 Benham Road, Greens Norton) to the Richborough Estates proposal for 69 houses on Blakesley Hill (Greens Norton). 14th September, 2020.

I want to formally object to this outline planning permission. Firstly, I believe this does not fall into the local plan and is outside of the village boundary.

Blakesley Hill is already busy for a road of its size and this will only increase traffic. The state of the road can only be described as being "constantly under repair". I think largely this has to do with how busy the road is, climate conditions meaning the road breaks apart. Increased traffic will make this road more dangerous than it already is.

The increased traffic, noise and pollution will have a negative effect on the whole village. Vehicles must pass through one of the main routes to get to this location. There is no quick access to the A5 or A43.

Local services cannot support further increases in residents.

The local surgery, supporting not only Greens Norton but surrounding villages is very busy. Having had to go there almost every day for over 12 weeks now, I have observed how busy this location is (even in a reduced operating mode due to Covid-19). I would be surprised if it were not already at, or very near full capacity.

I understand the primary school is at or near capacity. For those who moved to Greens Norton hoping to have families and send their children to a local school (like mine), this may not be an option if it becomes oversubscribed. The chances of this happening are heightened as new developments often attract young families for obvious reason.

There is no real way of integrating it into the existing village. The road will be the only way in and out of this plot with no walkways possible to the adjoining estates aside from the main road.

The new developments in Towcester, a town much more capable (and has in its local plans) the room to expand would be a far better option. The extra housing in Towcester will more than cater for the growth needed in housing for the area.

Northamptonshire is famed for its beautiful, quaint villages and tourists can be seen visiting or passing through regularly. This brings in important visitors and trade to the region. This will be under threat if developments are not centred properly around town infrastructure that can support it.

Sadly, trees flanking Northamptonshire fields are becoming a rare sight. Many are dying due to neglect from landowners. Further tree felling and general disturbance of the environment should be discouraged.

The quality of life of all Greens Norton residents will be affected by any expansion, and particularly this one. Bury Hill is an important walking / running / dog walking / stress busting route for a lot of people. Flanked by fields on all sides, open views, no noises. Quality of life for all residents that use this feature of the surrounding area will drop significantly. It will probably mean this route is no longer viable as Bury hill will now be an active rat route for vehicles on this estate.