

I am writing in response to your circular letter which outlines the plans for this development project. I must stress that I have attended your Consultation Events and spoken to both BMBC officials and representatives of the building contractor [homes]. I made my concerns felt at the time, and also commented upon your detailed planning document on the BMBC website. It seems to me that the BMBC decision has been made, and that these consultation requests are merely complying with legal requirements. However, these are my concerns.

1. We live on Higham Common Road which has become a dangerously busy route for a huge range of vehicles including **car transporters; lorries carrying long steel girders using all 8 wheels in some cases; Wordsworth excavation vehicles carrying large loads of debris; articulated lorries navigating spaces between parked cars; lorry drivers using their air horns in desperation and frustration; cars speeding along ignoring the 30 mph speed limit. At traditionally busy times it is impossible to go outside or speak to anyone at the front of the house.** I have walked along the pavements and almost been knocked over by the passage of air caused by these vehicles. Sometimes the traffic queues are over 150 metres long. I see that the Link Road included in this planning proposal will bisect a housing estate ! **How long before residents of these new houses begin to complain, or is it conceivable that traffic will be allowed to continue with no restrictions on weight or length along Higham Common Road?**

2. Having spoken to BMBC Housing and the contractor at the Consultation events I was given no assurance that building would comply with the ecological necessity for cutting down households emissions or building in an ecologically supportive way.

3. I was given no reassurance that building would exceed the minimum requirement for social housing - I would have thought that as a Labour led Council that would be a priority.

4. Many of the units at the industrial park at the M1 junction are empty, and with more working at home due to the pandemic, I consider the ambition to be misguided and loss - making.

5. Higham and Barugh Green are already surrounded by emission clogging routes - the M1; the A 628 [which is already breaking up, and roundabouts crumbling from heavy vehicles]; Higham Common Road itself, and now you propose to run a Link Road across the green fields which provide relief and carbon capture. The new houses will probably opt for easily manageable garden spaces - eg concrete tiles; artificial grass etc which will also mitigate against water capture and storage.

6. Once the green fields bordering Hermit Lane and the rear of houses are gone, they will not return and feeble attempts at 'greenways' or 'ponds' will not recompense either Nature or ourselves.

While I acknowledge the need for more housing, Higham has now become a popular place to buy houses due to its proximity to the M1. I hazard a guess that many of the inhabitants work and shop elsewhere, so that their contribution to BMBC is in Council Tax alone in most cases. I see them driving away at 5.00am and returning at 7.00pm every day. We need housing for people who are struggling, not for people driving large cars and parking two or three vehicles on their spacious drives.