From: Keith Lockton [redacted]
Sent: 22 August 2021 12:31
To: localplans@charnwood.gov.uk; Cllr. James Poland; edward.argar.mp@parliment.uk
Subject: Objection to Local Plan 2021 - 37 Proposed new houses in Thrussington, HA67 & HA68
Attachments: 90 Houses Planning Objection August 2021 (1).docx

Please find attached our objection to the above proposed plan and we look forward to your response.

[redacted]

Planning Dept.,
LOCAL PLANS TEAM,
Charnwood Borough Council,
Southfield Road,
LOUGHBOROUGH,
LE11 2TX.

Also sent by Email to localplans@charnwood.gov.uk

Wednesday, 03 November 2021

Dear Local Plans Team,

OBJECTION TO LOCAL PLAN 2021 – 37 - PROPOSED 90 NEW HOUSES IN THRUSSINGTON
HA67 & HA68

It's been a few years since my wife and I objected to a Planning Application (P/12/0997/2) and that was for just 1 House in Old Gate Road. Since then, absolutely nothing has been done to improve the sustainability of Thrussington, its services, or its infrastructure, **IN FACT IT HAS GOT WORSE**. We objected then against just 1 House so, with a **worsening village situation**, we have no alternative but to object against what we see as a ludicrous plan to bring 90 new houses to our village, a village that's struggling now to cope with needs **AND SAFETY** of our existing villagers.

We've listened to the thoughts, views and objections of our fellow villagers and our Parish Council and fully agree and support all of their thoughts, views and objections. However we need to add extra reasons and re-emphasise why such a proposal is nothing short of a totally illogical and ludicrous plan that will totally destroy the fabric and **SAFETY** of the village and its current **ENDANGERED** villagers.

SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE
Thrussington (and especially Old Gate Road) really is creaking at the seams, so any further increase in housing will, we fear, cause massive problems as follows:-

Sewers & Drains
As anyone living in Old Gate Road will testify, during rainy periods the existing sewers and drains don't cope and during heavy rainfall the road kerbside drains at the lower part of Old Gate Road flood over (below us at 50 to where it joins Seagrave Road). Usually it's many days before the flooded drain covers become visible again. We don't recall ever seeing any drain clearing/unblocking services come to clear these blocked drains, so they remain flooded for days or even weeks due to heavy rainfall. Whilst further houses won't make a difference to rainfall levels, this regular problem illustrates to us that **even now** there isn't the support we need to address this problem with current house levels in the village, so we have absolutely no confidence that anything of this nature would improve with 90 more houses.

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Flooding

As well as the sewers & drains not coping **or being cared for** during high rain falls, absolutely nothing is ever done to resolve the regular flooding of the Wreak between Thrussington & Rearsby, so we existing villagers encounter the dreaded "**Road Closed**" signs that nearly always appear after prolonged heavy rain. We've lived here for nearly nineteen (19) years and can't remember ever seeing or hearing anyone from the Environment Agency attempting to resolve this flooding issue. Therefore during such road closures (due to flooding OR railway Level Crossing Works) we are inconvenienced beyond belief and have no choice but to detour many miles if we need to travel to say Melton Mowbray or Syston for medical, essential shopping or other reasons. Notwithstanding many other reasons why this 90 House Proposal should never happen, this alone can be an extreme inconvenience for us existing residents, so adding a further 90 Houses, with hundreds of more people, would turn this inconvenience into a Huge Nightmare!

Power Supply

This is already under pressure with frequent power cuts, some only short but, in many cases they can be quite extended. Any increase in housing will surely leave our power supply far more susceptible to more power cuts which could endanger elderly, ill or disabled villagers.

Water Pressure

We've noticed over the past few years our water pressure has become significantly lower than it was when we moved here in 2002. It must, therefore follow, that any further increase in demand from more houses will decrease this pressure even more.

ESSENTIAL SERVICE LOSSES

We used to have a **Bus Service**, and a **Well Stocked Convenience Store,** incorporating a valuable **Post Office**. Over the years since we've lived here we've lost all three of these **Essential Services** and that's with the current housing stock. This is a definite reason why the proposed further house proposal should be abandoned. Also it is ludicrous that our nearest Medical GP/Facility is as far away as Syston. It is ridiculous to the extreme (and possibly even illegal) to contemplate adding further housing to a village that has such few **Very Limited Services** and is already really struggling. Such a move would be like a rail company adding 40% more carriages to a train that's engine is worn out, it simply wouldn't work, the engine would fail completely and the train would undoubtedly grind to a halt.

SERIOUS SAFETY & DANGER ISSUES

Road Surface & Particularly Old Gate Road

Presumably, due to clay substrate movement, the surface of Old Gate Road and other roads have become very cracked, rutted and deformed but again nothing has been done to address this problem. Further vehicular use by 90 new houses will only exacerbate the problem, so again we fear it would continue to be ignored and worsen; notwithstanding that 90 new homeowners would be paying Vehicle Excise Duty, Council Taxes, Rates and General Taxes. It would, therefore, be total lunacy to bring a further 200 to 300 or more vehicles onto our roads that already have potentially dangerous faults that badly need addressing.

Old Gate Road Traffic & Further Flooding Dangers

As well as those mentioned above, Old Gate Road poses more serious dangers for Pedestrians and Dog Walkers as the majority of its length is Single Track and is not subject to the 30mph village limit. Many vehicles drive far too fast along this defective

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road but, there's a **Safety Refuge** of a grass verge that pedestrians and dog walkers can step onto until fast moving vehicles have passed. Out of absolute necessity, a 90 House Increase would require that this current Single Track Old Gate Road be made into a 2 way Double Track road to cater for all the many additional cars and service vehicles. This would involve losing these **Safety Refuge** grass verges and filling in the drainage ditches of this **Downward Sloping** road to facilitate the necessary widening. The result would mean **EXTREME DANGER TO MANY PEDESTRIANS & DOG WALKERS** as they would have no **Safety Refuge.** Also, potentially **MORE FLOODING** would affect the Village Centre by the loss of the current drainage ditches, as this would cause surface water to cascade down to the bottom of Old Gate Road potentially flooding our homes and the village centre where it joins Seagrave Road.

More Vehicles means a Creation of a New Accident Black Spot

The A46/Seagrave Road turn to Thrussington & Rearsby is quite a dangerous junction. However, the potential of a further 300 vehicles in or around our village would inevitably create a **Huge Accident Black Spot** at an already dangerous junction, that being the A46/Old Gate Road junction which is used by vehicles travelling from the Nottingham area towards Leicester. We no longer use this Left Turn junction as it is already **EXTREMELY DANGEROUS**. Instead we continue to the The A46/Seagrave Road left turn to our village. It is hard to see this left hand turn as it presently it has no form of slip road and therefore it often requires quite sudden braking when it comes into view. This is on a very fast Nottingham to Leicester section of the A46 where a vehicle, under sudden braking to turn into Old Gate Road, can easily be hit from behind by fast moving vehicles who don't realise that the car in front is slowing down to take a left hand turn, **a turning that is not evident to them also**. There have been three or four occasions during our early years here we have almost failed to see this left hand turn in time to give an adequate signal and slow down gradually. On each occasion we've been very close to being hit by other vehicles who's swerved to avoid colliding into us due to our late signalling and sudden braking when we're almost on top of the turning. It's been over 17 years since we last used this turning and have, instead, driven the longer but safer option of the A46/Seagrave Road. Pour in another to 300 more vehicles into our village and it's inevitable that this very dangerous Left Hand turn will cause a **MAJOR ACCIDENT BLACK SPOT**.

Parking & Congestion Dangers

Parking around the bottom of Old Gate Road, The Village Green, and all roads that surround the Village Green is currently a **TOTAL & DANGEROUS NIGHTMARE!**

Due to the current existing levels of parking from both villagers and non villagers visiting the two public houses and small village deli/cafe, the current parking problem is **VERY DANGEROUS**, as extreme care is needed to drive through the village. This problem **MUST** be taken into serious consideration, as a further 90 homes would greatly add to this already very **DANGEROUS** and worrying situation, especially with nonexistent traffic calming at this dangerous area. Car drivers, pedestrians & children are all **AT EXTREME DANGER** due to the **CURRENT** congestion, so 90 more houses would only make matters **FAR MORE DANGEROUS**.

Health & Wellbeing

The current villagers don't have a local doctor, clinic or A&E facility within convenient reach. Those that can drive are able to travel to surrounding areas such as Syston & Melton Mowbray for medical advice and treatment. Without public transport, it must be a total nightmare for elderly or sick villagers and those who can't drive. In our opinion this awful situation needs to be addressed and rectified **before another single home is built in the village**.

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WHAT ABOUT YOUNGSTERS ?
No accessible Parks, Recreation Areas or Community Clubs, so what would the potential further 200 to 300 more youngsters do with themselves?

Prior to moving to Thrussington in 2002 we lived in two Northamptonshire villages. These both provided facilities for youngsters such as Pocket Parks & Community Centres where youngsters had a means of gathering, socialising and expressing themselves. In one village I was a Neighbourhood Watch Officer attending monthly meetings. We used to attribute our very low youngsters crime rate to the fact that our village had such facilities for them.

Thrussington however doesn't provide such support for youngsters and we are very grateful that our village youngsters, thus far, don't appear to have gone the crime route as a means of entertaining or bettering themselves. If we allow potentially a further 200 to 300 more youngsters into the village, we fear there's every chance that these additional youngsters will, if only out of boredom, turn to petty crime which, in turn, could go on to spiral into more serious major crime. Our beloved village doesn't have a strong police presence and, fortunately, doesn't yet need one. However if you allow the population to expand with the addition of 90 more homes with hundreds of more youngsters then it follows that current policing will not contain crime, be it from bored youngsters and/or others who see crime as their only way ahead.

IN CONCLUSION

Whilst we are not against the general principle of a few more homes in the village, we very strongly must object to what we feel is a plan by Charnwood Borough Council to propose allowing a huge number of new homes with hundreds of new people into a small village without first **SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING THE IRREVERSIBLE DETRIMENTAL IMPACT IT WILL HAVE ON THE EXISTING POPULATION**. A village population that could be further **ENDANGERED** by potential new crime levels, further **ENDANGERED** by overwhelming motoring, parking and congestion levels, **MEDICALLY ENDANGERED** by lack of basic medical facilities such as a local doctor's surgery, further **ENDANGERED** by already struggling and unmaintained surface water drainage, sewerage, and water supply pressures and **SERIOUSLY INCONVENIENCED** by lack of normal facilities such as **ESSENTIAL SHOP FACILITIES, POST OFFICE** and **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**.

As a struggling village, with over 200 houses we're already **ENDANGERED** by all of these weakening situations which are not being addressed. We therefore feel that Charnwood Borough Council are not taking existing problems into consideration and, therefore, are acting recklessly in proposing 90 new homes with the potential of 300 to 400 more residents. We therefore think the proposal is misconceived, inconsiderate, totally unsuitable and unsound as it appears that no thought or consideration appears to have been paid to the current lack of facilities and weaknesses that our village currently suffers. As such, my wife and I herein voice our huge objection most vociferously to such a ludicrous proposal, as it will only make the situation in Thrussington far worse than it already is.

May we therefore respectfully request that you invest in putting right all that is currently wrong with our village and provide better facilities the existing villagers and their youngsters, before proposing to add properties that will undoubtedly ruin what's left of our struggling village. If you do this **in advance of any future New Houses Proposal** then

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we would have no valid reason for objecting. However, as things stand, Thrussington has been seriously neglected and is in need of repair in many ways and this must be done **and be seen to be done** **BEFORE** adding more houses, only then would you possibly have our support.

Yours faithfully,

Ron & Marion Allsop.