

Dear, Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed plans for two new housing estates on Mersea Island. One is for 300 houses the other for 500 totalling 800.

I have tried (in vain) to obtain the details of the evacuation requirements for Mersea Island in the event of flooding from the two meeting rivers or if there was a problem from Bradwell Power Station but cannot get any answers; surely there must be a limit on the number of residents allowed to adhere to evacuation requirements.

As you are aware, there has been numerous debates around Bradwell Power Station and after investigating the Hansard Reports, one thing that was always subject of fact was major concerns over the evacuation of the current Mersea Island population who will only be two miles down wind and the only access to and from the Island are regularly blocked by tidal flooding which didn't take into account the transient population of tourists, which does not only effect a four month summer period, as the Island is being visited throughout the year by people who wish to avail themselves of fishing, oyster consumption, Wildlife Parks, Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Sailing and holiday resorts.

As you are aware the terrorist threat to the UK has increased and, as was addressed by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mr HOGAN HOWE, it is not a case of if, but when. I am at a loss to understand why it is necessary for Sizewell to have evacuation plans in place but not Bradwell and therefore impacting on Mersea Island.

Also, everybody was up in arms about the effect that the new restaurant on the seafront would have on the local oysters, well what about the effect of the sewage released onto them by an additional 3,200 occupants (worked out from 500 and 300 houses; average family of 2.2).

There was recently a two-hour delay for people coming across the Strood for minor traffic works; how would we evacuate the Island in the event of a major incident?

And, the age old argument of the infrastructure; no Police Officers, retained Fire Service, pressure on the Doctors, Dentists, Primary School (no Senior School on Mersea), sewage works (already at capacity during the Summer), roads which are already at breaking point after the Wellhouse Green and Brierley Avenue housing estates that have already been built.

We are aware that Anglian Water are constantly pumping sewage out of the sewage farm and transporting this from the Island via tankers. We have been told by personnel working at the sewage farm that this is because the sewage farm is unable to keep up with processing raw sewage. We have tried to obtain, under the Freedom of Information Act, from Anglian Water, the detail of the amount and reasons behind the sewage transportation. Because they do not have to comply with the Freedom of Information Act they have refused these details.

There are thousands of houses planned for the areas around Essex University, Tiptree, Coggeshall etc., after Wellhouse Green and all of the other houses being squeezed into Mersea surely we have already done enough for local housing?

I respectfully ask you to refer to the Local Plan Colchester Borough; Issues and Options; West Mersea Town Council Prospective which highlights the problems involved with housing, education, sewage, centres and employment, first responder requirements (due to lack of access/exit for ambulances at high tide and requirement of use of Essex Air Ambulance Services), transport and accessibility problems, the effect on the natural environment (which includes the fact that Mersea Island has European, national and regional designations including the Countryside Conservation Area

requirements, the coastal Protection belt requirements, the Marine Conservation Zone (since 2013), RAMSAR, Site of Special Scientific interest, numerous sites of Special Scientific interest, sites of important nature conservation and Special Protected Area status).

Despite all of the evidence against further housing Colchester Borough Council Planning Department have still carried on with the proposed ridiculous plans.

I also draw your attention to the local Mersea newspaper known as the Courier, dated 20 August 2016 issue number 636, which, as well as highlighting and explaining the Essex Native Oyster Restoration Initiative(ENORI), also includes strongly worded letters from John AKKER MBE against the 'proposed' mass increase of houses and Steph Hayward who highlights the problems already experienced by the local GP's over the mass increase in population already experienced by the Wellhouse Green estate.

When the Wellhouse Green Estate was built, the local authority insisted on social housing being built which Mersea Homes had great difficulty in selling because Mersea Island is too far out to be agreeable to commuters. The intended market for the new houses are professional middle aged to elderly therefore, it is obvious, that there will be even more stress on the infrastructure. The Doctors cannot cope now. We were assured that our house would not be overlooked and the nearest house would be over 25 metres away from ours; neither was adhered to by Mersea Homes!

I respectfully submit that the bad feeling against this 'proposal' is brewing and could be a future problem for Colchester Borough Council and be brought to the attention of the Planning Department as soon as possible in order that some common sense be brought to bear before that bad feeling becomes 'viral'.

Could you explain why this has been identified as an inappropriate plan, and not suitable, as identified by West Mersea Town Council yet Colchester Borough Council always support projects by Mersea Homes inspite of peoples protests and requests for dialogue being turned down (as highlighted in Colchester Town Council Plan) as it appears to have been railroaded through without any consideration being given to ANY of the highlighted problems.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Regards

Julie Baker

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