

Online Comments Form

Application Details

App No: 12/00400/AS

Location: Land at Chilmington Green, Ashford Road, Great Chart, Kent

Proposal: Outline application for a Comprehensive Mixed Use Development comprising: up to 5,750 residential units, in a mix of sizes, types and tenures; up to 10,000 m² (gross external floor space) of Class BI use; up to 9,000 m² (gross external floorspace) of Class A1 to A5 uses; Education (including a secondary school of up to 8 ha and up to four primary schools of up to 2.1 ha each); Community Uses (class D1) up to 7,000 m² (gross external floorspace); Leisure Uses (class D2) up to 6,000 m² (gross external floorspace); Provision of local recycling facilities; Provision of areas of formal and informal open space; Installation of appropriate utilities infrastructure as required to serve the development, including flood attenuation works, SUDS, water supply and wastewater infrastructure, gas supply, electricity supply (including substations), telecommunications infrastructure and renewable energy infrastructure (including CHP in the District Centre); Transport infrastructure, including provision of three accesses on to the A28, an access on to Coulter Road I Cuckoo Lane, other connections on to the local road network, and a network of internal roads, footpaths and cycle routes; New planting and landscaping, both within the Proposed Development and on its boundaries, and ecological enhancement works; and Associated groundworks where appearance, landscaping, layout and scale are reserved for future approval and where access is reserved for future approval with the exception of the three accesses on to the A28 and the access on to Coulter Road I Cuckoo Lane

Person and Comment Details

Name: Antony Francis

Address: 8 Coulter Road 8 Coulter Road Kingsnorth Ashford Kent TN23 3JQ

Action Objecting

Created On 15/11/2014 11:29:00

Comments

8, Coulter Road
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15th November 2014
Lois Jarrett
Strategic Sites and Design Manager
Ashford Borough Council
Civic Centre
Tannery Lane
Ashford
Kent TN23 1PL

Ref – Planning Application: 12/00400/AS

Dear Ms Jarrett,

I am writing to you once more regarding the above referenced Planning Application for the development at Chilmington Green, Ashford and wish to again register my opposition to this folly.

I attended the Council public consultation meeting and vote at the ABC offices on Oct 15th and was permitted to speak and explain my opposition to the Chilmington Green development for which I am grateful.

However I would like to say that in my opinion this was little more than a box-ticking exercise with all the Councillors having already adopted their positions.

Some of my objections were responded to by Councillors but they were certainly not addressed, in fact in my opinion they only reinforced my reasoning.

On the question of the increased risk of flooding a Councillor stated that he had driven around the new Ashford developments during the recent heavy rains and reported that he had seen no flooding at the new sites but had experienced flooding in the older parts of Ashford. This was exactly my point – the new developments will, no doubt, have excellent drainage and flood control measures built in but the water has to go somewhere and the Councillor answered this by pointing out that some of the water will be directed to the older parts of Kingsnorth and the surrounding environment!

Another issue was the poor communication to residents in the early stages of the development. A Councillor stated that

communications had been good and used the example of the 8,000+ opposition petition submitted to the Council and the PM's office, (which seems to have been totally ignored). This petition was organised well after the planning development application was being drawn up and was the means of information from which many Ashford residents, including myself, first became aware of the Chilmington Green development in the first place. Most residents do not check the ABC planning web site daily for updates - although I certainly do so now.

All the objections regarding the destruction of first rate agricultural land, the blot on the landscape, the vast increase in traffic to our already overloaded traffic system, the lack of local jobs for the intended new residents were far from convincingly addressed if not glossed over in my opinion.

I am sure Ashford residents read in the local press the report that Ashford town centre is one of the worst in the UK. This is obvious to anyone that lives here with boarded up buildings, shops and restaurants. The development at Chilmington will only make this bad situation worse by including more out of town shops and facilities. Surely the first priority of the Ashford Borough Council should be to improve Ashford by developing the extensive brown field sites!

I presume it is now not possible to stop the development in principal and can only hope that the future detailed applications will be objected to and modified to the extent that the developers will cut their losses and lose interest in the development at Chilmington Green which is bad for existing residents in the vicinity, bad for Ashford and should not go ahead.

Yours faithfully,

A D Francis