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HW/LY

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Perry Court planning application
Swale Borough Council Planning Ref: 15/504264/OUT

As you will be aware, development proposals have recently been submitted to Swale Borough Council for Perry Court Farm, Faversham. I have received numerous representations from constituents expressing concern about the proposal and I wish to raise those issues with you. I also attach the correspondence I have received.

The proposed development comprises up to 310 dwellings, 18,525 sqm of commercial space, a hotel of up to 100 rooms, a care home of up to 60 rooms, a convenience store and three traveller pitches. The development site is between the Ashford Road and Brogdale Road, south of the Abbey School and the A2, and close to junction 6 of the M2. The proposal is a significant edge-of-town development representing an extension of the urban town into a green field site.

Constituents' concerns raised with me include:

- Increased traffic on the A2, Ashford Road and Brogdale Road. I appreciate how busy these roads are and I understand one assessment suggests the development will lead to 1,550 new traffic movements a day. The Ashford Road and its junction with the A2 are already pinch points where queues build up at peak times;
- The effect the increase in population will have on local services, particularly pressure on school places and GP surgeries;

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- Connectivity with the town and transport sustainability. Concerns raised include shortcomings in proposed crossings for pedestrians, poor public transport and cycle provision, and the likelihood that cars will be the main mode of transport for residents, even to get into the town centre;
- The urbanisation of Brogdale Road and the impact on the setting of the Malthouse and Oasthouse at Perry Court Farm, a Grade II listed building;
- Building on a greenfield site and consequent loss of good agricultural land;
- Extending Faversham beyond its traditional boundary by building south of the A2.

Concerns about traffic volumes and connectivity in particular surely need to be considered in conjunction with any impact arising from the development already approved (on appeal) for up to 63 dwellings to the west of Brogdale Road (SBC reference SW/13/1567). It appears to me that safety considerations, including for pedestrians and cyclists, should be of paramount importance when considering this application.

I have also been made aware of wider concerns about building south of the A2 which will extend Faversham beyond its traditional urban boundary, as well as concerns that Perry Court is a green field site with good farming land which will be lost.

I would be grateful if you would keep me updated on the progress of this planning application and how the issues raised by my constituents are to be addressed. I am also in contact with Kent County Council about the potential highways impacts of the development and about its potential impact on the availability of school places locally. I am keen to ensure that if the development does go ahead, it must be only with the adequate provision of infrastructure. If I can be of assistance please let me know.

Helen Whately MP
Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent