



Neil O'Brien OBE MP
Harborough, Oadby & Wigston
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA

Adrian Thorpe
Head of the Built Environment
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council
Sent via email

26th October 2022

Dear Adrian,

RE: Planning Application 22/00320/FUL – land east of Bideford Close, Wigston

I write to you in respect of the above planning application for 15 dwellings on the land east of Bideford Close in Wigston.

Having received a number of emails on this, I recently visited the site in question where I was joined by a number of local residents. I have enclosed a picture of this, as I feel it is important to note that this was arranged at incredibly short notice due to a change in my diary. The fact that so many residents attended with around 12 hours' notice, I think speaks to the concerns that many of them have.

On the back of my visit, I must say I entirely understand and share the concerns they have with this application. Generally, I tend to only comment on larger scale planning applications which have a more strategic impact on the constituency, though I feel it important to object here due to the safeguarding concerns this application also presents. Some of the new houses will be directly overlooking the school playgrounds, which is naturally a big concern – and something I believe that is shared by the school itself.

The general accessibility to this site is also of significant concern and is further amplified when you consider there is a school right next door. Not only would this be of concern during the construction process as large HGVs attempted to navigate what is already an exceptionally busy area due to the school, but would present ongoing traffic issues upon completion also; exacerbating the issues currently faced on a daily basis.

There is already a shortages of parking spaces for staff, meaning some already have to park their cars on the surrounding roads. Dropped kerbs and in increased number of cars from the occupants of the 15 homes will add further strain onto the roads and create additional congestion for nearby residents. This is the only access route for the school, so alternatives do not exist.

Many residents have also expressed concerns about the construction itself, both in terms of noise pollution but also the dangers this presents to nearby children and other residents in the area. The site is currently well-used and much-valued as well by local residents and school children. While there are no benches or existing amenities, it is a green space that contributes positively to the mental health and wellbeing of those in the area, which must also be considered here. I understand some of the existing trees may also have TPOs, which presents additional concerns and challenges for this application that must be carefully considered.

I trust the above outlines clearly the concerns that I and many residents have with this application, which I hope will be carefully considered by planning officers and members of the planning committee should this be heard.

Yours sincerely,

Neil O'Brien

Neil O'Brien OBE MP

Constituency Office:

24 Nelson Street, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 9AY
Tel: 01858 464 146 Website: www.neilobrien.org.uk