

Braintree District Council  
Planning Department  
Causeway House

3. 2. 2016

Dear Tessa Lambert

On behalf of the Friends of the Flitchway the following are objections, set out to the proposed outline planning application for the development of the Pods Brook area east of Braintree town named as Brook Green.

Noted are the buffer zones between the proposed buildings and the Flitchway on the Southside shown on the master plan, these do not appear sufficient in extent. The buffer zone between the Northern build and the Flitchway are inadequate to be effective in their purpose, greater depth is required for these green areas to act as a buffer between the development on the Northern border and the Flitchway.

Footpaths with access across the Flitchway as shown on the master plan, we the group object to these footpaths being adjacent on either side of the carriageway as this will promote their use as a thorough fares between the two developments.

This will result in an increase of foot traffic across the Flitchway with the resulting damage to valuable habitat alongside these projected routes. Non adjacent footpaths onto the Flitchway from the proposed housing on either side would be a better proposition to reduce incidences of accidental damage to the flora on the embankments of the Flitchway.

The location of the proposed vehicle passageway between the two areas of development is an area subject to flooding from Pods Brook and adjacent fields, therefore the road passageway would be subject to flood on the occasions of heavy rainfall making this route impassable during winter storms.

Once again the group would request the Braintree Council to list the Flitchway as Heritage Asset of historic and amenity value to the residents of the district for the future protection of this much regarded cycle and walking route. The Flitchway is a linear country park from Braintree to Dunmow and as such is deserving of protection from intrusive development alongside the borders of this county's favoured route for sustrans cyclist and ramblers.

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On behalf of the Friends of the Fritchway.

The air pollution and Co2 emissions from the introduction of at least 2000 private vehicles from the proposed development will not have a positive impact on the environment and the surrounding air quality, the survey company Turley need to revisit their conclusion and make an honest appraisal of this question of air pollution from the extra traffic movements as a result of the proposed housing development of 16000 houses where each one of the houses will have ownership of at least one car per household.

The Environmental Impact Assessment document issued by Turley, Cardiff, December 2015, concludes the proposed development will have a positive impact on this area when built. A conclusion that cannot be borne out by the fact that there will be considerable loss of open countryside (56.5 hectares) to a district which is in need of green open spaces as an amenity that residents of Braintree can enjoy when there are not working.

The Fritchway group would request all existing hedgerows and trees of field boundaries are retained as well as the trees and scrubs that line either bank side of Pods Brook, these to be given protection from destruction or their reduction to conform to the developers master plan for building houses.

Yours Faithfully

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