OBJECTION TO SITES

I OBJECT to this site, and others, for the same reasons; on behalf of the Action for Harleston Group.

(Membership currently in excess of 750 members. Statement of intent available by contacting actionforharleston@outlook.com)

Harleston, is now, a medium sized market town. There has been substantial building in the area raising the number of residents markedly.

However, the infrastructure has not kept pace with the increase in residents.

**We have a dental practice**. That practice is no longer accepting any new clients for dental work, even the private practice side of the business. This is a very strong pointer that they are totally full.

**We have a Doctor’s surgery**. This currently has two and a half doctors, and associated services. And if asked they will inform you that they are coping.

However, if you ask the patients who are trying to get an appointment with a doctor, they will tell you that it is very difficult to obtain that appointment.

Other surgeries seem to have a much larger range of available services than those currently available in Harleston.

**We have a junior school, an infants school, and a senior school**. Depending on to whom you make the enquiry, the actual availability of school places varies.

The senior school apparently has a few places left, whilst infants and juniors, are either full up, or oversubscribed.

**We have two car parks.** The Town Council made a decision a few years ago to keep the car parks free at the point of use. The lease was only made possible because the half of the main car park for the town which belongs to the Co-op is heavily subsidised by the Co-op, offsetting the large cost charged to the residents for the rest of the car parks. It is a matter of opinion as to whether parking free all day at the point of use, and making the residents pay a large precept, is the best use of the car parking spaces.

**We have a bus service.** Though there are complaints about frequency, etc of the buses.

**What we also have is lots of problems.**

The town centre is of medieval design. It has a one-way system around a central core of buildings. The car parks are situated on either side of the central core, and both can only thus be accessed by going around the one-way system.

To enter either car park, it is only possible if nothing is coming the other way in the access, which creates blockages.

The number of vehicles trying to use the roads in the town centre creates tail-backs, and holdups.

This is further exacerbated, by the fact that the shops in the central roads have no loading or unloading areas, but delivery vehicles have to park partially on the pavement outside the shop, to allow other vehicles to move past. On delivery days the town centre itself almost becomes a car park.

Naturally, this parking on the pavement, and cars driving on the pavement to pass large vehicles, creates a hazardous situation for pedestrians, especially those with prams, or invalid vehicles.

There is a persistent, ongoing problem with cars speeding in the residential roads associated with the housing estates.

We have drainage problems in the housing estates built in the last few years, because it appears that the SuDS which were installed, are not adequate. This flooding is occurring in the housing estate itself, of in a housing estate further down the hill.

We also have surface water flooding in the main street.

We have sewerage problems where the existing sewerage system cannot cope with the number of houses it is being required to service.

Though, there is an industrial estate in Harleston, there has not been a significant increase in work opportunities for the local residents, meaning that they have to travel elsewhere for employment, most using their cars, which is environmentally unfriendly.

And all the time, Harleston is being marketed by the estate agents, as a market town with all the local facilities.

This no longer true, and is a source of annoyance for those who decide to live in Harleston, but discover that what was promised, is not delivered.

Each of the new estates seems to have been only considered in isolation. Nowhere, has anyone carried out a major **Cumulative Impact study**, so all the changes that have happened so far, can be evaluated before further building is undertaken.

Whilst not wanting to completely stop building in Harleston, I OBJECT, on behalf of the members of Action for Harleston, to the further developments on ALL sites, as the cumulative effects of previous building has not been evaluated and where problems have been identified; those problems have not been rectified before consideration is given to further developments.

Barry Woods

Chairman – Action for Harleston