HEARING SESSION. 20th AUGUST 2019. Starting 0930

Dealing with Sustainability, Habitat and Climate Change.
Presented by Rebecca Atherstone for KATCAG

KATCAG/ENVIRONMENT/WILDLIFE/POLLUTION

I am a member of the Kirton and Trimley Community Action Group…I am also a villager who lives close to the farmland in Howlett Way in Trimley St Martin…and someone who lives diagonally opposite to Innocence Farm, which is across the A14. I am not a planner or lawyer. My views are based on an appreciation of where I live.

I want to touch on the effect that these proposed developments will have on Sustainability, Habitats and Climate Change. The fears I have if we destroy this rich soil.

There has never been a more important time, because of Climate Change, to talk about the need to grow our own food. There has never been a more important time to talk about saving endangered Wildlife, the beleaguered
Environment … and preventing health threatening Pollution. We face extremely difficult challenges in the years ahead.

It is my hope that these challenges will be met through an Independent Planning process such as this…..

In both cases, the Howlett and Innocence locations are High Grade farmland. It should be almost sacred as it is vital for growing food for both humans and animals. Valuing our farmland (because we won’t be given any more) is essential for our survival.

The Government guidelines on protecting the Natural Environment (2016) states this about Planning taking into account the quality of agricultural land……

‘The National Planning Policy Framework expects local planning authorities to take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land’… it goes on….‘local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer land quality in preference to that of a higher quality.’.

The NPPF also ENCOURAGES the use of brownfield land.

Agricultural land classification is measured in 5 grades. Natural England say that ‘The best and most versatile land is
defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a and is the land that is most flexible, productive and efficient...it can best deliver food and non food crops for future generations’. Howlett Way and Innocence are in that High Grade.

Climate Change will decrease our water supplies. Suffolk’s water comes mainly from rivers and aquifers, natural resources that we should use wisely and respect. Food production should surely come before ill-judged mass development.

Before we attempt to build over hundreds of acres in our precious fields. Let’s pick up a few facts from the National Farmers Union about what we grow in East Anglia.

We grow more than a quarter of England’s wheat, more than a third of the potatoes, two thirds of the country’s sugar beet. Farmers support and attract a massive amount of wildlife and plants, especially on their field margins.

A pressing issue for all of us is how to feed a global population predicted to be 10 billion by 2050. One thing we should NOT be doing is building on rich High Grade soil. Competition for food supplies will have a worldwide impact...the Chinese are already buying up farms in countries
like New Zealand to make long term plans for their population. We import around 50 percent of our food. Those supplies will not always be there. Food is a greater priority than building houses that won’t be needed. The industry in Felixstowe is just not there to warrant these housing estates and a vast industrial lorry park and warehousing.

Pollution.....a huge numbers of villagers still have no idea of what may come our way if we go ahead with high density developments. Clean air is a basic requirement for all. Pollution is now a major public health risk. The Government says ‘It ranks alongside cancer, heart disease and obesity and damages the quality of life for many people.’

There will be a huge increase in traffic if these proposals go ahead.

Particulate matter, like smoke and dust from exhausts, brakes and tyres can get into our lungs and blood and get transported round the body, lodging in the heart, brain and other organs....this information is from the Government.

Public Health England say that up to 36,000 deaths every year are attributed to air pollution....traffic being the main culprit....that figure is increasing all the time. Fine particulate matter, ozone and nitrogen dioxide are slow killers.
The envisaged Lorry park at Innocence Farm is particularly dangerous. Idling diesel lorries and trains, with a predicted three thousand two hundred lorry movements a day spells Pollution Disaster.

Pollution obviously affects wildlife (conveylive.com), it has a dramatic effect on their habitats. Birds, bees and insects also suffer …what hurts us hurts them.

The A14 is close to capacity....and the Orwell Bridge is already barely able to cope at times. The A14 is one of the deadliest roads in the county. You can’t make a single trip without seeing wildlife corpses.

Our ancient Roman High Road is barely coping at present...it certainly can’t take much more traffic. Villagers can hardly get out of their driveways at peak times. The C class road is used as a Rat Run by traffic wanting to avoid the A14.

Anglian Water tells us resources are under stress. Does it make sense to keep building housing estates? Climate Change will surely slowly dry up our water supply.

The human population is growing fast...it is increasing the demand for food. Climate change has impacted on crops around the world. It has led to many concerns about food
security. It has been predicted that current levels of production will not meet projected demands of the future.

Our farmland will become more valuable that we would ever have thought. We cannot rely on air miles food in the future.

Constant building on the Felixstowe Peninsula...this narrow fertile strip of land, is a disastrous move. There appears to be no thought to the future. We will be covering our food basket in concrete.

Alan Turing’s quote on the new fifty pound note

“This is only a foretaste of what is to come, and only a shadow of what is going to be’.

It paints a picture in my mind of development going out of control. Too late to stop the bleeding dry of a natural environment and everything it provides.

Heritage is surely important. As are the views as you come along the Felixstowe Peninsula. On your left Innocence Farm....a rural delight, far better than seeing lorries, gantry cranes and containers piled high. On the other side as you come off the A14 exit to the Trimleys..... across the Howlett Way field...you see the iconic view of the two church towers.
You know immediately you are coming into the Trimley villages…the Domesday Book villages.

What we mustn’t do is become the victim of Creeping Normality…a phrase coined by the American scientist Jared Diamond…a major change that happens very slowly, so slowly ...that it is too late to see the long-term Environmental Degradation taking place under our noses.

We owe to our children…and future generations and the animals that share the globe with us.... To respect and treasure land that gives us sustenance.

This planet does not belong to human beings alone. I would urge planners and landowners to think again...you may find that you are already looking at a Pot of Gold.