

Appendix DT/6

Cheshire Police 2018 Objection Letter and 2020 covering Email

From: Keith Armstrong [mailto:keith.armstrong@cheshire.pnn.police.uk]
Sent: 02 July 2020 11:20
To: Skinner, Helen <HELEN.SKINNER@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: APP/M0655/W/17/3178530 ~[OFFICIAL]~

Hi Helen,

Please find attached the original notes of concern from my predecessor Mr Stewardson ref the planned development, I realise some of these concerns may longer be required, but they can be added for the file if not already on there.

We wouldn't normally get involved however community concerns have been raised to myself and Warrington council have instructed me to contact you.

I have received concerns from residents of Birch Avenue explaining their issue of potential 'rat-running' from A49 through Birch Avenue to Poplar and increased traffic due to the scale of the development.

The residents have provided me their measurements of roads etc in a further attached document. This indicates the road be originally designed as an avenue not through road. From Cheshire Polices prospective the road safety issue is that echoed of the residents – most of us are aware of the potential dangers of 'rat running' to avoid the traffic, drop of driver awareness to beat the rush, speeding, hidden pedestrians crossing in the built up area.

The other concern I have is controlling that speed issue which will most likely occur. Engineering could be required to slow vehicles down and if then when enforcement is required due to lack of speed compliance this is going to fall to the police. Resources as with everywhere are stretched and as much as we would endeavour to act upon this we can commit to being on that road all the time to 'manage' the traffic speed.

I would therefore put forward that serious consideration of this proposal is given to the road scheme and not allowing potential rat-running to take place.

Many thanks for your time.

Kind Regards.

Keith Armstrong – Traffic Management Officer

Cheshire Constabulary HQ | Clemonds Hey | Winsford | Cheshire | CW7 2UA

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As far as I am aware Cheshire Police were never consulted in relation to this proposed development and it only came to our notice when we were contacted by two members of the 'Save Peel Hall Campaign' asking for our support in objecting to the scheme.

Unfortunately this contact was after the closing date for any comments or objections to be lodged but we would like to make our observations known to the Planning Inspectorate.

Having studied the submitted plans and supporting documentation Cheshire Police have serious concerns in relation to the impact of such a large development on the strategic roads network to the north of Warrington. In particular the A49 Winwick Road and the M62 Motorway at junction 9 and the increased road safety issues on Winwick Road and within the development itself will rise to an unacceptable level.

Winwick Road is a major route into and out of Warrington and is regularly gridlocked at peak times and often throughout the day particularly if there is an incident on the Motorway system. The construction of around 1200 homes of various design, a local centre, care home, school, light industrial units and community support facilities will introduce a significant number of privately owned vehicles, possibly between 1200 and 1500 depending on how many vehicles are owned by residents, this number will be increased by delivery vehicles, public transport, visitors and 'rat running' by drivers trying to avoid the congestion on Winwick Road and the Motorway can only have a major impact and detrimental effect on the existing road network.

The close proximity of the junction of Birch Avenue to the Motorway roundabout at junction 9 is a concern as is the proposed signalised junction at Poplars Avenue.

It is inevitable that drivers will utilize Birch Avenue and Poplars Avenue as a 'Rat Run' to avoid the congestion on Winwick Road thereby increasing the traffic within the development area and the signalized junction with Poplars Avenue will only delay the movement of traffic on Winwick Road despite the introduction of the third lane southbound. This lane is a token gesture to try and avoid tailbacks from the traffic lights onto the Motorway and will be totally ineffectual as it will increase the potential for rear end shunts on the approach and nearside to offside coming together collisions on the exit where drivers vi to return to two lanes. This will also increase the potential for so called 'Road Rage' incidents. We are not convinced that the traffic light timing at this junction can be configured to accommodate existing queues on Winwick Road coupled with the increased vehicle movement created by the development and will undoubtedly have a detrimental impact on the Motorway and traffic movement in general.

I have had sight of the independent safety audit on this junction proposal compiled by Alan Consultancy Ltd and do not believe that the mere introduction of high friction surfacing on both approaches will be sufficient to combat rear end shunts and no mention is made of the possible nearside to offside collisions on the exit. There is also the recommendation of a 'Keep Clear' at the junction of Birch Avenue which will have no effect whatsoever on traffic on Winwick Road.

Satnam have indicated that they will promote public transport within the development and educate buyers by giving them a travel pack and vouchers in an attempt to minimize car ownership. This will be a futile exercise and will never achieve the objective to minimize car usage.

In short Cheshire Police object to this proposal on Road Safety grounds pertaining to the impact on existing vehicle movement and the potential to create major issues on the Motorway network.

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