

Online Comment

Application RR/2020/1822/P
Location Strand Meadow - Land to the south west of, Burwash TN19 7BS
Proposal Reserved matters relating to residential development of 30 dwellings (outline permission RR/2017/582/P), conditions 1,2 and 3 together with the discharge of conditions 7 (foul and surface water drainage), 8 (parking and turning of vehicles), 9 and 10 (archaeology), 13 (levels) and 19 (landscaping).

Name Rev Graham R Lewis
Address The Vicarage Burwash Common TN19 7NA

Date Submitted 17-11-20
For/Against Object

I write in my capacity as the Vicar with current responsibility for Burwash parish following the retirement of the local Rector.

This particular application has caused great distress to the Villagers, both because of the multiple failings to meet what would normally be considered acceptable standards, and the failure to treat the community with respect.

I am particularly concerned for the residents of Strand Meadow, where some of my own church members live. Their housing was planned in an era when fortunate households had one car and most had none. The roadway is very narrow, and cars are parked on the pavements, forcing pedestrians onto the road. As a cul-de-sac it is just about manageable as the traffic levels are low. If the planned development of 30 non-affordable homes, with the large and multiple vehicles that usually attend such properties,, proceeds, it will become unacceptably dangerous for children, pedestrians and cyclists.

The high density of the housing, and the relatively limited parking in the planned development, gives rise to the probability that yet more vehicles will be parked on Strand Meadow with consequent community conflict.

The lack of affordable housing, using the usual excuse of not being able to make a big enough profit, is simply wrong. We have too many local families living in short-term rental properties because there is a dire shortage of affordable homes for locals, but a glut of "executive detached residences" for those moving out from London.

The site itself is ecologically important, and occupies a visually important part of the area. The developer has failed to make a coherent case for building here rather than on more suitable land.

The community benefit from this development appears to be one footpath that goes nowhere. What is needed is upgrades to the school, doctors' surgery and, most significantly, the road system. Shrub Lane is already too busy and too difficult to access. Any new estate should be linked appropriately to the A265, with pavements and cycle lanes provided to the village.

I can see no benefit tot he community in the design of the development, the location of the development or the provision of a footpath. I can see multiple disadvantages to the well-being of families and the local community, and strongly object to the application.