



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

CC: [planningcomments@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:planningcomments@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

12 August 2024

Dear Mr Nikolas Smith,

As the Member of Parliament for North Bedfordshire, I support Biggleswade's Central Bedfordshire councillors and our Town council in raising strong objections to Land North of Biggleswade (planning application CB/24/00999).

Firstly, the proposed new access road falls outside the designated development site HAS06 as allocated in the Local Plan. This road runs close to existing homes, including the Carter Meadow children's play area and the road's encroachment on Biggleswade Common is inconsistent with the Development Brief that the Development Management Committee (DMC) previously approved.

Moreover, the overcapacity (RFC >1) of the Drove Road/London Road junction during peak times, particularly during school hours, presents a significant safety hazard. The failure to adequately address the increased queue lengths at this junction, where hundreds of pedestrians, including young children, cross daily, is unacceptable. The application fails to meet the safety standards set out in NPPF Paragraph 111 and Local Plan Policy T2.

Additionally, the absence of detailed traffic modelling for Potton Road, the lack of consideration for the busiest periods at the Shortmead Street/Sun Street junction, and the inadequate treatment of Bridleway 10 and National Cycle Route 12 all further illustrate the application's shortcomings.

It is also concerning that the site's sustainability has been exaggerated, with key measurements being taken from the entrance rather than the centre of the site. This misleading approach suggests that the development is more sustainable than it is, potentially leading to an increased reliance on cars, contrary to Local Plan Policy T1.

Finally, the current access routes to the town centre and railway station via Potton Road bridge or Lawrence Road are already unsafe for pedestrians due to the narrow footways. The lack of any plans to improve these critical routes is another clear failure of the application to satisfy Local Plan Policy T1(1).

This planning application presents numerous policy breaches and significant risks to our local infrastructure, and community safety. I hope it is brought forward to the DMC with a recommendation for refusal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Fuller".

Richard Fuller MP