

David Thompson, South Cambs District Council
Planning & New Communities, South Cambs Hall
Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne
Cambridge CB23 6EA
Ref: S/1027/16/OL

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25th May 2016

Dear Mr Thompson,

I write as Principal at Swavesey Village College in response to the Planning application for 99 new dwellings on land off Fen Drayton Road.

Swavesey Village College urges South Cambs District Council to refuse this application and to consider the following points when making its decision:

1. The school is already undergoing a 20% increase in student numbers over the next 5 years and has struggled to provide enough space to maintain the standard of education we aim to provide. We have recently undergone a building project which brings an increase in capacity only sufficient to cope with the current in catchment demand for places. This additional accommodation is only sufficient for the additional numbers living in the catchment villages. This accommodation will be further stretched by the temporary addition of students who move into the Northstowe development prior to the Secondary school opening there in 2019.
2. Swavesey VC currently has capacity for 270 students in each year group and the projected demography for 2018 and 2019 is well above this, with nearly 350 students in each year in our catchment area primary schools. Two of our current year groups are already overcapacity and we are full in every year group meaning some students who have moved into the catchment area have been denied a place over the last three years.
3. With approval for 70 additional houses in Swavesey already given over the past year and construction underway, the number of children needing to attend the Village College is about to increase still further in the immediate future.
4. We are extremely concerned about the impact of another 99 additional houses on the College, as we will be unable to cope with an influx of children on this scale.
5. Were the development to go ahead, the majority of children living in the new houses would have to go to neighbouring village colleges.

We would very much appreciate it if you could take these concerns into consideration when making a decision regarding this appeal.

Swavesey is not able to cope with an additional development of this size without a detrimental impact on the lives of its residents and the services it provides them. Development should surely be focused in areas where public services and infrastructure are in place or can be modified to provide the facilities and services required. This is simply not the case in Swavesey due to the current size of the school, limitations with the site and projected growth in the catchment demography.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Daly, Principal