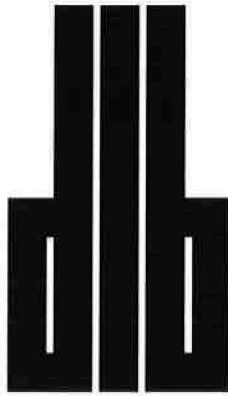


3239



3 October 2013

Chief Planning Officer  
Local Development Plan – Preferred Options Consultation  
Maldon District Council  
Princes Road  
Maldon  
Essex CM9 5DL

**Re: Planned Development of North Fambridge**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concerns, and object in the strongest possible terms, to the council's plans for North Fambridge in the 'Maldon District Draft Local Development Plan Consultation' document.

The residents of North Fambridge have expressed their worries about developing the village on numerous occasions, and whilst the council have reduced the number of planned houses from 300 to 75, they still seem to be missing the point of the objections. Namely:

**Housing** – The plans are for '75 new homes of which 40% will be affordable'. This is out of keeping with the rest of the village and does not comply with the stated objective to 'retain the identity of our villages'.

**Sewerage** – The drainage within the village is already at full capacity and could not cope with additional housing on this scale. Backing up of the sewer system due to surface water issues has already caused major problems in Franklin Road. An entirely new sewerage system would be required throughout the village to cope with such a large number of new properties.

**Flooding** – North Fambridge and most of the surrounding area are known to be at risk from flooding (according to the Environment Agency).

**Employment and Amenities** – North Fambridge has a minimal number of amenities and negligible employment opportunities.

**Schools** – The local schools are already over-subscribed.

**Roads** – The road into the village is very narrow, and the turning into the village from the B1010 is a well-known accident hotspot. An influx of traffic will increase the dangers for residents.

**Rail** – The proposal suggests that because there is train station in the village, it is ideal for expansion. However, the commuter trains which run through the village (7-9am; 6-8pm) are already full. The track is single line from Wickford to Southminster, and the current number of services (one every 40 minutes) is the maximum the track can accommodate. Additionally, the annual fare from North Fambridge to London Liverpool Street is nearly £4,000, which means anyone using the service requires a well-paid job.

**Local Environment** – Blue House Farm, the 605 acre 'site of special scientific interest' and nature reserve owned by the Essex Wildlife Trust is located in the village, and will be negatively affected by this development.

I hope the council are sensible enough to realise that North Fambridge is not the place to build so many houses, and reconsider their plans.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted footer line]