



BRAUGHING PARISH COUNCIL

Alice Lawrence - Clerk

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Planning Department,
North East Herts

Sent by: Email to planning.control@north-herts.gov.uk

Date: 23rd September 2024

Dear Sir / Madam,

Application: Planning Application 24/01883/RM

Braughing Parish Council would like to formally object to this planning application, due to serious concerns regarding the impact this development would have on traffic in Braughing and the surrounding areas, as well as the potential damaging effects on the local sewage system and the River Quin.

Sewage and Environmental Concerns

We wrote to Anne McDonald at North East Herts back in October 2022 to outline our concerns with application **BK3 18/01502/OP 140 new houses**. I attach our letter for your information. The letter outlines Braughing Parish Council's concerns regarding the capacity of the existing sewage treatment plant and the potential for severe environmental damage. The current sewage system is already overburdened, as demonstrated from the start of this year to 31 March, there were 881 hours of untreated sewage discharges with 13 alleged illegal discharge days.

This river, a rare chalk stream, flows through Braughing and is a critical natural habitat. Until the sewage infrastructure is upgraded to handle both current and future demand, further large-scale developments should not be approved. Protecting the unique ecology of the River Quin is a priority.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that Braughing Parish Council, in partnership with the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, has dedicated considerable time and public resources to enhancing the Quin in our area. This initiative aims to protect and preserve the invaluable chalk stream ecosystem, ensuring its survival for generations to come. Chalk streams are exceptionally rare and fragile environments, home to unique biodiversity and vital to maintaining ecological balance. By taking these proactive steps today, we are not only safeguarding this precious natural resource from immediate threats but also securing its long-term health and sustainability.

Alice Lawrence, Parish Clerk

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Traffic Concerns

The proposed development is likely to result in a significant increase in traffic through Braughing and nearby villages, particularly along the B1368 and A10, which are already heavily used. These roads are not equipped to handle a substantial increase in traffic, and the development will exacerbate congestion issues, particularly during peak times. The road infrastructure in Braughing and the surrounding areas is rural, narrow, and not designed for heavy traffic flow.

The B1368, which connects Barkway to Braughing, is already experiencing safety concerns due to speeding and high traffic volumes. Additional traffic from this development would increase the risk of accidents and further degrade road surfaces. With several other development applications approved in the surrounding areas, the cumulative impact of this development cannot be ignored. The road network will not cope with the additional strain, causing increased travel times, road damage, and safety hazards.

We urge the North East Herts planning committee to carefully consider these factors and reject the application until a thorough traffic impact assessment and sewage infrastructure review are conducted, with plans to mitigate any adverse effects.

Yours faithfully,

Alice Lawrence
Parish Council Clerk