



BRAUGHING PARISH COUNCIL

Alice Lawrence - Clerk

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Sent by: Email to anne.mcdonald@north-herts.gov.uk

Date: 16 October 2022

Dear Sir / Madam

RE: Planning Application for Barkway BK3 18/01502/OP 140 new houses

Braughing Parish council would like to strongly object to this planning application and express its deep concerns in the letter outlined below.

The existing sewage treatment plant does not have the capacity to deal with the existing sewage discharge let alone an additional load to support this planning application. In 2021 there were 734 hours of raw sewage discharged into the chalk stream source that is the River Quin. The planned sewage route runs directly through the Braughing Parish as well as other neighbouring towns and villages.

Braughing Parish Council along with many others would like to point out to North Hertfordshire District Council that until the sewage treatment plant is upgraded to deal with the existing problem and future development, no further large-scale developments in the village should be approved.

The River Quin flows through our village of Braughing. The Quin is a chalk stream. Our chalk streams are unique. The Environment Agency, in 2021 stated:

"Chalk streams are a rare and valuable habitat, often referred to as the equivalent of England's rain forests or Great Barrier Reef. 85% of all chalk streams are found in England, mainly in the south and east of the country, as well as dozens of smaller chalk springs, rills and flushes. They stretch from Yorkshire through East Anglia, the Chilterns, Kent, Hampshire and Dorset, and are important for biodiversity. Chalk aquifers are also an important source of water for drinking, agriculture and industry, support angling for trout, salmon and coarse fish, are important for recreation and are a valued part of the English landscape. They need good quality water in order for the different species of fish, plants and insects, many unique to them – such as the southern damselfly - to flourish"

Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency, said in 2021: (the future of Chalk Streams) *"depends on collective action from water companies, farmers, and landowners as well as government and regulators. No one should undermine the value of chalk streams, and today's report adds clarity and certainty about what is expected of all their users."*

Alice Lawrence, Parish Clerk

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Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England added:

"These habitats are subject to a complex range of pressures, however, from pollution arising from road runoff, agriculture and sewage, to low flow resulting from abstraction for public water supply and physical damage to the water courses."

Living in Braughing, we consider ourselves very fortunate to have a Chalk Stream flowing through our village. A recent incident of unknown cause resulted in the death of a large number of fish in the River Quin which shows just how vulnerable this habitat is.

Raw sewage flowing into the river from upstream could potentially cause an ecological disaster in our village and it is of great concern to us that we have not been consulted with on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Lawrence
Parish Clerk

cc MP Oliver Heald oliver.heald.mp@parliament.uk
cc County Councillor Jeff Jones Jeff.Jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk
cc District Councillor Gerald Morris geraldmorris@btinternet.com
cc District Councillor Peter Boylan Peter.Boylan@eastherts.gov.uk
cc Braughing Parish Councillors