

Hello.

I'm sending this email as feedback to the "Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Neighbourhood Plan" to which I have just received an email and am unable to leave comments on the website as this seems to have been made difficult to leave comments.

As someone who moved in to Hoo when this was still a village back in 2008 we have seen numerous changes including housing estates that have over doubled the size of the village. However as part of these housing estates little seems to have been done to improve the infrastructure.

Before any more houses are built in the area base amenities should be not only considered but met for the welfare of all in the peninsula.

These would include more Schools, Dentists, Doctors & Bigger/Better Road Systems.

Since being in the area we have had just 1 school built at the bottom of Hoo as part of the existing Hundred of Hoo academy however with the number of houses already built in the last 15 years along with the number of new families moving out of London into the area along with Kent being the link to Europe where refugees are entering from, we are already over subscribed at most of the schools in Medway and they are all being asked to take more heads per class than is recommended. With the new school currently being built near the Medway Tunnel and adding to the Traffic in the area this is likely to be oversubscribed from the moment it opens its doors. This leads to the education of children being compromised and as a parent to a child with Educational Special Needs, this really concerns us and my child's mental wellbeing.

Any schools that are built should also include a drive through and drop off area so that cars are kept from parking on the road blocking residents from leaving their homes or making it difficult to go to work.

Doctors surgeries in the area are so busy with the number of patients on their books and the limited number of doctors to the extent that you can't get an appointment unless you are one of the lucky early ones on the phone to join the 50+ queue. We have had to result to seeing doctors in Hospital about general medical advice regarding our child as it's difficult to get in to see a Doctor. With the numbers of houses that are likely to go in to the area this is only going to get worse and impact the healthcare needs of everyone in the area. This is also tied in to the refugee issue above where Kent and Medway are too busy to properly care for anyone.

Dentists have the same issue where there are only 2 dentists and 1 hygienist at the practice to care for the everyone in Hoo. I have had to sign my family up to a dentist in Chatham because it's easier to get appointments and the care on the NHS.

We have a child with medical and mental needs and have only seen a health visitor on a small number of occasions despite being in hospital with him over 20 times. Following on from the Baby P debacle, it's really concerning that no one has learnt from this and are still not giving parents the help they need but also health visitors just aren't caring for the children they should be caring for.

The Roads are the biggest problem and this affects everyone on the entire peninsula. The severity of this pending issue was seen during the school summer holidays where the path way between the top of Four Elms Hill and the bottom was being replaced so 1 of the lanes was shut off. This was supposed to take 4 weeks but was never going to take this long with the workmen doing the actual job as each time I went past (several times a day) they were standing around chatting, sat in vehicles eating/drinking or 3-4 stood watching 1 person work and by the end of the 4 weeks had only managed to complete 20 meters of work. Then it's assumed they were given overtime to do the work for the following couple of weeks as to the surprise of the peninsula residents they managed to get the remainder of this done in the next 2 weeks which coincided with schools starting up again.

Since then they have had to dig the patch up on 3 separate occasions to put in new street lights and other things that again has cost the tax payer more money where the job should have been planned and crews brought in at the correct point to do their work so once the final layer on the path can be put down and have no joins in where moisture has a better chance of getting in and causing trip hazards.

The issues this caused were not only affecting the time of the residents but also the pocket as the time stuck in traffic with engines running but also delays getting to appointments. To explain how much this caused issues it takes me 10 minutes to get my son to his nursery in Rochester (one who helps with his special needs) but during this time it was taking almost 45 minutes on a good day but on the bad days was well over 1 hour. This didn't only affect the peninsula but as people were looking for quicker ways out of the area this caused traffic going back through Cooling and Cliffe locking up the entire area.

This is just one of the issues. The roundabout at the bottom of Four Elms Hill should be redesigned with more filter lanes but maybe even traffic lights to give everyone the change to get out of their junctions and onto the roundabout. Even a flyover should be considered coming from Wulfere Way to Hasted Road and Wulfere Way to Four Elms Hill.

None of this mentions the underground services that should also be considered to help with waste water from the streets, houses and fields or to mention the water services coming in to houses along with electricity and communication services. This doesn't even mention the additional supply shops that would likely be needed in the area to supply residents in emergency weather conditions as at present if everyone in Hoo wasn't able to leave the area to heavy snow the shops shelves would be empty within an hour.

This is my feedback on any and all development plans on the peninsula as they all affect the road usage as a minimum but also the schooling and medical health of those in the immediate area.

I implore you to look at improving the infrastructure before any more houses are built. If we don't have the budget for it then make a condition of the home building companies to build infrastructure prior to the first house.

Many Thanks