

TIDBURY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Charlotte Kirby
23 Silver Street
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28th July 2016

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James Carpenter
Head of Service – Development and Regulatory Management
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Places directorate
PO Box 11652
Council House, Solihull
West Midlands B91 3YA

Dear Mr Carpenter

Tidbury Green Farm development – Tidbury Green

We have serious concerns about the following matters,

- the speed of traffic along Fulford Hall Road (north of Norton Lane), which has a speed limit of 30mph.
- the width of this lane to accept passing 20t lorries and other heavy traffic such as local commercial heavy goods vehicles and buses.
- the safety of vehicles egressing from the development at Tidbury Green Farm at morning rush hour, say from 7.30 to 8.30 weekdays and accessing at between 17.00 and 18.00.

We expect a clear response to each of the following matters within fifteen working days and provide the following evidence and comment:

- 1) The latest Speedwatch session on Fulford Hall Road took place on 18 July 2016 between 08.00 and 09.00, and recorded 625 passing vehicles, 80 of which had a speed of 37 mph or over, with three recorded at 50 mph or over. This is the highest number of both passing vehicles and speeders ever recorded in a session of Speedwatch, which has been operating, mostly on a weekly basis, for about eight years.
- 2) The previous Speedwatch session took place on 8 July 2016 between 17.00 and 18.00, and recorded 503 passing vehicles along this section of Fulford Hall Road, 63 of which had a speed of 37mph or over, with the highest speed recorded at 50mph.

- 3) We suggest that you install traffic management equipment to monitor the speed and volume of traffic in this area immediately after the resumption of school terms in the Autumn, so a true and accurate reflection is available when considering and before signing and agreeing any site traffic management plan so that the decision of this plan is evidenced based. Do you intend to do this?
- 4) Measurements of the width of the highway have been recorded at 22 and 28 Fulford Hall Road, which are near to the site entrance for the development. These both show a width of the highway as less than 6 metres. We are advised that the most used lorry for construction traffic is a 20t tipper lorry (8 wheeler) - 3 metre width, without allowing for a side mirror. We therefore find that two such lorries will not be able to pass each other without driving onto the pavement, or obliterating verges. There are also other issues with local lorries and buses. Please provide us with the surveys carried out of potential construction traffic made before signing off the outline planning permission. Do you intend to investigate this further?
- 5) We estimate that the build out of this site will result in up to 7,500 vehicle movements of 20t lorries. Given the numbers of vehicles passing at critical times of day, we believe that the speed limit on this section of Fulford Hall Road (Norton Lane to Lowbrook Lane crossroads) should be reduced to 20mph, permanently from the commencement of construction, which we understand will be around November 2016. In addition, significant traffic calming measures should be put in place, given the lack of respect of many drivers for any speed limit, as evidenced above. Please provide us with your proposals for reducing the speed limit and applying traffic calming measures.

We attach a letter to Bellway, which expresses concerns that both SMBC and Bellway face. The Parish Council are in complete agreement with the matters raised in this letter. We ask you to provide us with your views on the following points set out in that letter:

- a) Item 1. What is SMBC's position concerning a traffic holding area remote from the site?
- b) Items 4 and 5. What is SMBC's position concerning alternative routes to and from this site?
- c) Item 7. What is SMBC's position concerning the location of emergency access.

SMBC is ultimately responsible for road safety, and we therefore expect the most serious consideration to be given to these issues, as they will affect public safety on this road for many years to come.

Yours sincerely



Charlotte Kirby
Clerk to the Council

Enc: Letter to Bellway
C.C. K. Hawkins (SMBC), J. Walters (CPRE)