

Albourne Parish Council – Statement for draft District Plan

Transport Issues

For some time Albourne Residents have been concerned about a number of traffic related issues affecting the roads surrounding the proposed Sayers Village development namely the B2116, the B2118 and Reeds Lane. In essence these concerns relate to the adverse effect of the number of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) – in particular their large physical presence, unsuitability for a rural area characterised by narrow and winding roads, together with the noise disturbance, vibration to property and pollution they cause. Local residents have also expressed concerns about the speed of traffic generally, given the presence of a primary school, and the increasing use of these roads by pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists especially where there is no continuous pavement. Further west from the village area on the B2116 the straight stretch of road is particularly dangerous and has experienced many incidents of serious road accidents.

It is clear that the proposal to build 2000 plus properties in the area enclosed by these roads will exacerbate already existing traffic related problems both during the construction phases and thereafter. Despite the developers' references to encouraging more sustainable forms of movement it is unrealistic to assume that new residents will not wish to use circa 3000 plus extra vehicles to travel to and from the development on existing roads. **In meetings with developers and reviews of their plans there is no evidence that that this issue has been addressed. Furthermore the current proposal to prevent HGVs from using Reeds Lane will only serve to make matters worse.** Means of additional access to the development coupled with significant structural changes to existing roads will be necessary. The opportunity should be taken via imaginative thinking to alleviate existing traffic problems.

Actions taken by Albourne PC and local residents as evidence of existing traffic problems include:

HGV Survey – on the B2116 revealed 306 HGV movements in a 12 hour period 68% of which were travelling to or from the Firsland industrial estate.

LOOP & Speed Indication Data – established average daily traffic volumes on the B2116 to be 3280 with 62% travelling above the speed limit in the village area between the junctions with the B2118 and The Street.

Speedwatch Data – 11 sessions on the B2118 recorded 112 vehicles exceeding the speed limit and 7 sessions on the B2116 recorded 32 exceeding the speed limit.

Petition – carried out to seek support for a 20mph speed limit on the B2116 in the village area produced 300 signatures in support.

Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) – has been submitted with support from our County Councillor for speed limit reductions on the B2116. Despite being regarded as a good case by WSCC Highways the requests have not been fully approved given owing to historical speed limit criteria, the perceived need for structural changes to be effective and funding constraints.

For Albourne Parish Council