



Planning Policy Team  
Shropshire Council  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire  
SY2 6ND

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this report to you opposing the development proposed for the village of Hanwood, which is 4-5 miles to the west of Shrewsbury. Having lived in the village all of my life I can tell you that the level of development proposed is completely disproportionate and unsustainable.

I would first like to discuss the site west of the telephone exchange in Cruckmeole. The site is agricultural, greenfield land and is outside the village of Hanwood's development boundary and is actually in Cruckmeole.

My first concern for the site is one of environmental concern. As a keen angler and cross country walker I know the area better than most, and I can tell you that the fields earmarked are prone to flooding from the Rea brook which was actually earlier this year only ten yards from the proposed site for development. I believe that another year of similar rain patterns and the site will be penetrated by floodwater.

Another concern I would like to bring up is that of the effects this development will have on the natural environment. The area immediately around the proposed site is ecologically rich and diverse, over the last year I have seen wildlife that includes; Otters, Kingfishers, Herons, Foxes, Red Squirrels, buzzards to name a few. All of this fragile wildlife is within 200 yards of the site. It is certain that the development will have a detrimental effect on the ecosystem, the light and noise pollution produced will disturb nesting birds and will scare much of the wildlife away from the area. The Rea Brook is also a very diverse river and contains fish that include; Trout, Salmon, Chub, Pike, Grayling and several species of eels. The brook runs about 100 yards behind the site in Cruckmeole and is the last undeveloped stretch of the brook in the Hanwood area. I personally believe that any interference by development will greatly effect the fragile river ecosystem. This would be from the extra rain water from the houses being drained into the brook increasing the water level and shortening the lag time significantly, the brook is also prone to flash flooding. But would also be of a great loss to the local angling community which regard the section of the brook as the best in the area.



The development will have an effect on the community of Cruckmeole which will be effectively absorbed into Hanwood, so will lose its separate identity. The development would also affect the lives of people living in areas like Lea Cross as they would feel that development will be slowly encroaching towards them. It is also certain that the development consisting of 29 houses will add up to 60 extra cars onto the A488 through Hanwood which is badly congested and misused by the current volume of traffic. The effects on the residents of Hanwood that the traffic has includes; Pollution from exhaust fumes and the constant noise from passing traffic which increases the possibility of diseases like lung cancer, Increased likelihood of injury/death from traffic collisions( a cyclist was injured in a collision a week ago). These factors will not only be made worse by development in Hanwood/Cruckmeole, but development in Pontesbury and Minsterley which so I believe will be Over 200 properties. This will add more traffic to the A488 causing more congestion, thus causing deterioration in our quality of life whilst ruining the rural idyll for the sake of people whom are not native to the Rea valley, consequently ruining our communities into nothing more than commuter settlements.

The development proposed will blot the beautiful landscape that is Cruckmeole, whilst ruining the village feel of Hanwood by surrounding the village core with what is essentially another housing estate, this will give residents a feeling of entrapment. Hanwood and the immediate areas surrounding it are more than big enough to support the population of the village for the future. I wonder if these houses that are planned are to be for people that have lived in the village all of their lives ?

I also wish to bring up the point that the infrastructure within the village is not sufficient enough to support any further development. I believe that the railway bridge on the western side of the village is extremely dangerous for pedestrians, with parts of the path along the road too narrow to be classified as a footpath I find myself diving into the hedge when a large vehicle comes around the corner when I am using the footpath. Surely development cannot be approved when the existing infrastructure of Hanwood is insufficient to safely house people on the western fringes of Cruckmeole, any residents of the proposed development would have no choice but to use the footpath into the village to access the village services. Having attended the consultation at Hanwood church a couple of weeks back I understand that there would be money in the form of a grant available with development that is to be used to improve footpaths, roads, ect in the parish. But the problem is that the proposed development officially falls into Pontesbury Parish being in Cruckmeole, this means that the grant money will go to Pontesbury Parish leaving the dangerous stretch of footpath at Hanwood railway bridge with no money for improvement which will be needed if any development is to be passed.

The village of Hanwood has also had industrial activities over the last 100 years that have interfered with the structure of the ground which have changed its ability to drain and hold water. There was a coal mine over the road from the site by the telephone exchange, it had a shaft that was 900ft deep and branched out for a few thousand yards underground. Although the shaft has been filled in with landfill material in the 1950s the ground has been disturbed and, when the pit was



open it suffered from groundwater flooding which altered the composition of the earth, there is also faulting in the bedrock a few thousand yards from the site. In the Orchard Lane area of the village there are several clay pits where clay was extracted for the production of bricks at the Brickworks in Cruckmeole. These recent disturbances in the ground increase the risk of future mass movement of the ground which are unpredictable and can have devastating consequences. The ground's stability is in a delicate balance if any increase in weight (from housing) or change in the recharge of groundwater (from impermeable surfaces) is altered then the ground could easily subside or move as the village is in a valley, so can be effected by very slight changes to the environment.



The site is pictured above looking from the road, as you can see the site is agricultural fields and is largely unspoilt.





As you can see from the above photograph looking towards the western side of Hanwood the site is way outside the development boundary. You can also see that the section of road is very straight and is currently misused by speeding motorists.



The photograph above was taken from the site entrance looking towards Pound Lane, as you can see it would be dangerous for vehicles to be pulling in and out of the site because of the bend in the road. The speed limit for this section of road is the national speed limit of 60mph, this would make it very dangerous for pedestrians and residents alike as the footpath is also very dangerous to use when walking between Cruckmeole and the proposed site.





The photograph above was taken 20 yards further along the road towards Cruckmeole. The houses are on the site of the Hanwood coal mine as I mentioned earlier the shaft descended for 900ft and was filled in with landfill in an ad-hock fashion so the ground is not as stable as it would be naturally.

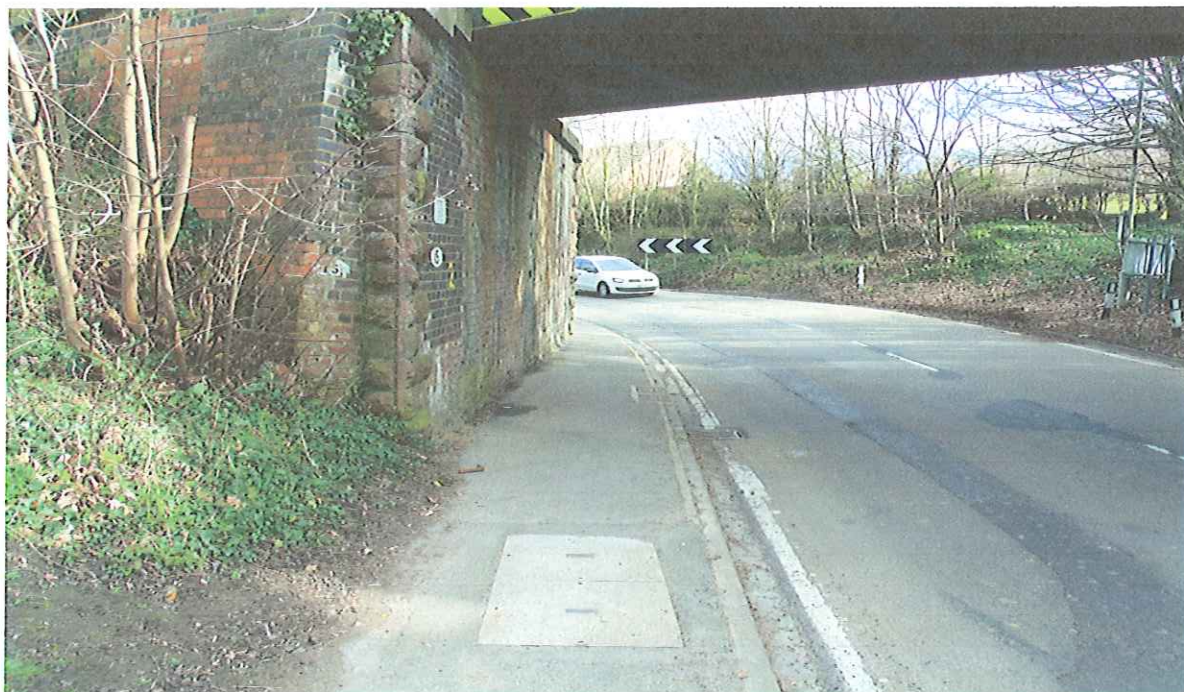


The above photograph was taken from the lay-by at Hanwood school, it shows the slag heaps from the coal mine this could possibly have caused a level of groundwater pollution in the area.



The road under the bridge is a very dangerous stretch of road, there have been several bad collisions over the past few years.









I have taken some photographs above of the route into the village centre of Hanwood. As can be clearly seen the footpath is very dangerous for people to use, when a large vehicle comes under the bridge at speed you have to jump onto the embankment to prevent yourself getting hit. Would you want young children to use this path?











The two photographs above show how beautiful the Rea brook is , the photographs show why we should be protecting the natural environment and not destroying it. Once these environments have been damaged by man they will never recover to their former glory.





As you can see from the photograph above the field that is being proposed for development would greatly effect residents views from the terrace in Cruckton.





I think the photograph above shows why this area should be left alone, there could be a possibility that if the current proposal is passed more development could follow and destroy these fields forever.





This photograph above is a close up of the exact centre of the proposed development, it will clearly destroy the independence of Cruckmeole.



This photograph shows the fringes of the development, floodwater from the Rea brook has reached this far before as it is on a flood plain.



I wish to thank you for reading this brief report I have put together, I hope that my points will be given thought as I care deeply about the natural environment of the Rea valley and the communities within it.

Yours Sincerely

Thomas Johnson- Resident of Hanwood, Aged 17.