

BYGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

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STATEMENT TO INSPECTOR

Good morning my name is Philip Hills Chairman of Bygrave Parish Council.

To put Bygrave in context with the proposed development -site 1 - north of Baldock this area is all within the parish of Bygrave.

The area between Baldock signboard and Bygrave Village board is approximately 1 mile. This area of land was predominately common land and is now all farm land worked successfully by a number of local farmers. This area is designated greenbelt and under current Government legislation there are no exceptional circumstances that the village considers why this should be changed.

It is proposed that this development spreads to the boundary of the first dwelling within the village making Bygrave a suburb of Baldock rather than remaining an independent community of which the residents of Bygrave are justly proud.

There is a proposed road linking the A505 to the A507 that cuts across the land below the village. This road will, however large or small will have the potential of approximately 12,000 car movements a day + being used as a short cut. This will cause for the village:

- greater light pollution (the village does not have street lights)
- greater air pollution
- and noise pollution

With the addition of a roundabout by the Bygrave Road there is also the added risk to the village of additional traffic coming through from Ashwell direction where even more development is taking place.

Taking all into consideration this will all have a major impact on the village environment.

There also seems to be an idea of removing our one direct route from the village to Baldock without getting involved in what appears to be new bottlenecks caused by the new road systems

There is little or no mention in the plans of any screening of the proposed development or link roads from the village. This needs to be considerable as the village is situated higher than the proposed development with at the moment fine views across the valley.

Finally the village of Bygrave seems to have been given little consideration of the impact to it caused by the enormity of the proposed development and roads