

Margaret

Thanks. Filling in the details, we've raised the issue with:

- the police via Spencer Clarke, Public Protection Manager at CCC (who is in almost constant touch with them) – I'm told that
 - a "partnership intelligence report" has been submitted to the intelligence unit covering the alleged drug-dealing, threatening behaviour and potential gang issues; and
 - the community policing team have been asked to look at a coordinated approach in relation to drugs, anti-social behaviour and other issues in the area
- Nick Binder at South Essex Parking Partnership to check whether and on what basis parking restrictions could be considered
- The planners at CCC, to gauge the scope for changing the walkthrough
- Sage Housing, who will be contacting their residents generally – and we'll raise a specific concern too
- North Avenue Youth Centre, whose outreach team is expanding their work to cover this area

One issue we wondered whether you might be able to help with is the installation of barriers on the walkthrough. As the new homes have generated neighbourhood CIL for Broomfield PC, could some of this be allocated to enable this safety measure to go ahead? It is expenditure on infrastructure made necessary by the new development so it would seem to be the sort of thing CIL is intended to pay for.

Regards

Cllr Chris Davidson

Cabinet Member for a Fairer Chelmsford
Liberal Democrat Councillor for Patching Hall Ward
07484 346315



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From: Margaret Bleet <margaret.bleet@gmail.com>

Sent: 28 July 2022 11:27

To: Cllr Chris DAVIDSON <Chris.Davidson@chelmsford.gov.uk>

Cc: margaretbleet@gmail.com; jcmblake@gmail.com; Cllr Stephen ROBINSON <Stephen.ROBINSON@chelmsford.gov.uk>; mark Hembury <Mark.Hembury@broomfield-pc.gov.uk>; Cllr Mike STEEL <Mike.Steel@chelmsford.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Persimmon development

Hello Chris,

Thank you for your email about the complex issues arising in this area. It would appear that the police and environmental health need to be involved.

We have not had any complaints at all from that area as far as I know, I have copied our clerk, Mark Hembury in to double check.

These look like long term issues. I believe that under the governance review we will lose that area to Chignal in a few months time.

Probably as these issues are ongoing and will take a while to sort Chignal will need to be involved. Plus Mike Steel, Wendy Daden and Barry Knight are our councillors, who will need to know if there are issues.

To respond to Q1. We are not aware of any of this. Persimmon is not very new now and I wonder if the closure of Hollow Lane has had a recent impact?

Q2. The issues seem to be ones which either police or environmental health could deal with. As we have not received any complaints we cannot pursue this. Plus I believe that Hornbeam Gardens might be social housing so the landlord would have a part to play?

Even if we were not losing this development in the governance review I am not clear what part we could play? We have very limited powers and resources. I will be interested to see what John Blake and Mark Hembury think.

Thank you

Margaret

On 26 Jul 2022, at 21:41, Cllr Chris DAVIDSON <Chris.Davidson@chelmsford.gov.uk> wrote:

Margaret / John

I'm contacting you at Stephen's suggestion in your roles as Chairman of Broomfield PC and Planning Committee Chairman respectively. I have posed a couple of questions at the end of this which it would be useful to discuss if you are willing to do so.

There is an issue brewing on the boundary between Patching Hall ward and Broomfield Parish Council that I should alert you to. The issue stems for a culture clash between the long-established residents of Weller Grove and the new residents of the Persimmon estate (particularly those in Hornbeam Gardens). The new development is split between Broomfield and Chignal PCs; the homes adjacent to Weller Grove are in Broomfield PC.

We have been alerted to a series of linked concerns that are causing Weller Grove residents to become very agitated. In summary:

- Taxis and delivery drivers have taken to stopping in Weller Grove to drop off to the new homes – it saves a longer drive via Chignal Road and Hollow Lane. This includes some examples of pizzas being “delivered” to Weller Grove very late at night when they have been ordered by new residents.
- Some new residents appear to have parked their vehicles in Weller Grove for the same reason, sometimes causing obstructions.
- Some youths from the new estate are reported to be riding round on unregistered motorbikes, doing circuits around the old and new roads and footpaths, sometimes in the middle of the night.

- There are reports of frequent short meetings in Weller Grove involving one of the new residents – which are being interpreted as possible drug-dealing.
- One of the Weller Grove residents who complained to a new resident reports being threatened by a gang wielding baseball bats.
- Some new residents tend to have noisy discussions/arguments, often late at night.

The factor that makes all this possible is the walkthrough between Weller Grove and Hornbeam Gardens. There are many reports of youths riding motorbikes through it at speed, causing concern that someone will be injured. Some Weller Grove residents are calling for the walkthrough to be sealed off. That doesn't feel like an acceptable solution; it would make it harder for your new residents to walk, cycle or get the bus into Chelmsford, and it would also be inconvenient for residents of Weller Grove who like to access the footpath between the two estates (and, beyond that, Broomfield's countryside). Nevertheless, one design feature has been noted: unlike other footpaths around Newlands Spring, there are no barriers to slow down anyone using the walkthrough.

I have had discussions with various officers at the City Council as I search for a way of helping the Weller Grove residents. I'm happy to share these discussions with you if that would be useful – while some of the underlying causes are very different lifestyles, I imagine there will be at least some of the above (e.g. the late-night noise disturbance) that is as much a concern for many of your new residents as it is for mine.

Questions that occur to me are:

1. How much of this, if any, are you aware of from your residents? Have they been complaining to you?
2. How can we work together to help reduce the criminal and anti-social behaviour that has been reported for the benefit of all our residents?

Regards

Cllr Chris Davidson

Cabinet Member for a Fairer Chelmsford

Liberal Democrat Councillor for Patching Hall Ward

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