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The Planning Policy Team
Rochford District Council
South Street
Rochford
Essex SS4 1BW

6th July 2011

Dear Sirs

Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal South Hawkwell (Hawkwell West)

1. The Core Strategy states that green belt land should be protected. The proposed development of 175 houses in Hawkwell will completely destroy a large area of green belt land comprising mature trees and shrub land which is the habitat of a great variety of wildlife. The report expresses concerns over loss of woodland and the adverse impact on wildlife in South Hawkwell but the location is still being considered.

2. The analysis is unsound because South Hawkwell has not been compared to all alternatives in the District, only those in Hawkwell and Hockley. The allocation for Hockley has been reduced from 150 to 50. This small community in South Hawkwell has 175 houses allocated in one development. Such a development would be better placed in a more sustainable location such as Hockley or Rochford which are already well served by buses, trains, shops, doctors, dentists and other services. Hawkwell does not have a local housing need for 175 new homes.

3. The impact on traffic has not been considered in this document. There will be much more traffic in the area with consequent detriment to residents' quality of life. The flow of traffic on the B1013 is constant and there is a build up of cars, vans and lorries at peak periods. Queues of traffic at the B1013/Rectory Road junction will cause even more noise and greater air pollution for local residents. There are no crossings to aid pedestrians at this busy junction.

4. This area is served by one bus route, the No.8. The service ends at 7.00pm. There are no schools within safe walking distance. The walk to Hockley Station takes 25 minutes, to Rochford station 40 minutes. Only the most competent cyclist could use the B1013. This means that people will use private transport.

5. This development will not fit in with the existing character of the area which is mainly bungalows. There are few amenities in the area. Residents have to travel for most services e.g. shops doctors dentists etc. The only facilities for the younger generation appear to be the sports centre and playing field.

Yours faithfully,

