



# TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Planning Services

Council Offices, Thorpe Road, Weeley, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO16 9AJ

<b>AGENT:</b>	Mr Ian Coward - Collins and Coward The Courtyard 9A East Street Coggeshall CO6 1SH	<b>APPLICANT:</b>	Bocking Homes Estate Office High Street Thorpe Le Soken Essex CO16 0EA
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### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

**APPLICATION NO:** 20/01803/FUL      **DATE REGISTERED:** 13th January 2021

Proposed Development and Location of Land:

**Proposed erection of 4 two bed dwellings arranged as two pairs of semi detached properties with car parking and amenity space.  
The Woodlands Edward Road Thorpe Le Soken Clacton On Sea**

THE TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL AS LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY **HEREBY REFUSE PLANNING PERMISSION** in accordance with the application form, supporting documents and plans submitted for the following reason(s)

- 1 Paragraph 11 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF) states that plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development. For plan-making this means that plans should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area. Strategic policies should, as a minimum, provide for objectively assessed needs for housing. For decision-taking this means approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay. Paragraph 12 of the NPPF states that presumption in favour of sustainable development does not change the statutory status of the development plan as the starting point for decision making. Where a planning application conflicts with an up-to-date development plan permission should not usually be granted.

Section 1 of the Local Plan (which sets out the strategy for growth across North Essex including Tendring, Colchester and Braintree) has been examined by an Independent Planning Inspector who issued his final report and recommended 'main modifications' on 10th December 2020. The Inspector's report confirms that, the housing and employment targets in the plan have been confirmed as sound, including the housing requirement of 550 dwellings per annum in Tendring. The Council has now formally adopted Section 1 part of the development plan which carries full weight in the determination of planning applications - superseding, in part, some of the more strategic policies in the 2007 adopted plan. In the interim, the modified policies in the Section 1 Local Plan, including the confirmed housing requirement, can be given significant weight in decision making owing to their advancement through the final stages of the plan-making process.

For the purposes of the determination of this application the Council can currently demonstrate that a 5 year housing land supply exists. Engaging the presumption in favour of sustainable development under paragraph 11 d) of the NPPF does not apply in this instance. The policies for the delivery of housing are considered up-to-date and the application must therefore be determined in accordance with Paragraph 11 c) of the

NPPF, thus in accordance with the development plan.

Accounting for the housing land supply situation, regardless of the proximity of the site in relation to services and amenities, there is no longer a requirement to consider such sites due to their location outside of the defined settlement development boundaries as the planned growth for the District to meet housing need has been established. In applying the NPPF's presumption in favour of sustainable development, the adverse impacts of allowing additional dwellings on the site on both on the character of the locality and on the Council's ability to manage growth through the plan-led approach, are not outweighed by any benefits. The development is unnecessary and there are no public benefits that might warrant the proposal being considered in an exceptional light. The proposal is therefore contrary to the aims of paragraph 11 of the NPPF and contrary to the development plan Saved Policy QL1 and emerging Policy SP1.

- 2 Paragraph 8 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF) sets out the overarching objectives for achieving sustainable development, one being the environmental objective which requires the planning system to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment. Paragraph 127 of the NPPF states that planning decisions should ensure that developments add to the overall quality of the area and are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment. Policy QL9 and QL11 of the Tendring District Local Plan (2007) seek to ensure that all new development makes a positive contribution to the quality of the local environment and is of a suitable scale and nature appropriate to the locality. These sentiments are carried forward within Policy SPL3 of the emerging Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond Publication Draft (June 2017).

The site is located adjacent to the Thorpe le Soken Station and Maltings Conservation Area.

Paragraph 184 of the NPPF states that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations. Paragraph 196 of the NPPF states that where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal. Saved Policy EN17 of the adopted plan states the development will be refused where it would prejudice the setting and surroundings of a Conservation Area or harm the inward or outward views. Furthermore, draft Policy PPL8 of the emerging plan states that permission will not be granted for development outside but near to a Conservation Area if it detracts from that Area's character.

By virtue of the density of the dwellings, the ridge and eaves height, the depth and narrow width, tall gable window features and undersized parking bays, the layout, scale, proportions, design and appearance of the development fails to respond to the immediate character or reflect the identity of local surroundings. The development is out of character and fails to make a positive contribution to the quality of the local environment therefore failing to preserve or enhance the inward or outward views of the Thorpe le Soken Station and Maltings Conservation Area contrary to the above-mentioned national and local plan policies.

- 3 Paragraph 54 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2018) states Local Planning Authorities should consider whether otherwise unacceptable development could be made acceptable through the use of conditions or planning obligations. Paragraph 56 of the NPPF states planning obligations must only be sought where they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, directly relate to the development and fairly and reasonably relate in scale and kind to the development.

Policy COM6 of the adopted Tendring District Local Plan 2007 states "For residential development below 1.5 hectares in size, developers shall contribute financially to meet the open space requirements of the development in proportion to the number and size of dwellings built".

There is currently a deficit of 2.43 hectares of play and formal open space in Thorpe-le-Soken. Any additional development in Thorpe-le-Soken will increase demand on already stretched play facilities. The Parish Council have just started to create a new area of play in a woodland area, this is an ongoing project to add to the play facilities in Thorpe. Due to the significant lack of provision in the area it is felt that a contribution is justified and relevant to the planning application and that this money would be used towards additional facilities at Lockyers Wood.

This application is not accompanied by a completed unilateral undertaking for a contribution towards play and formal open space facilities and therefore this scheme does not comply with Policy COM6.

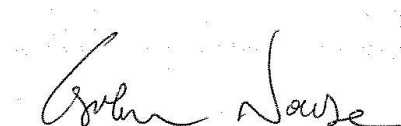
- 4 Under the Habitats Regulations, a development which is likely to have a significant effect or an adverse effect (alone or in combination) on a European designated site must provide mitigation or otherwise must satisfy the tests of demonstrating 'no alternatives' and 'reasons of overriding public interest'. There is no precedent for a residential development meeting those tests, which means that all residential development must provide mitigation.

The application scheme proposes a residential on a site that lies within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) being approximately 3500 metres from Hamford Water Ramsar, SAC and SPA.. New housing development within the ZoI would be likely to increase the number of recreational visitors to the Hamford Water and in combination with other developments it is likely that the proposal would have significant effects on the designated site. Mitigation measures must therefore be secured prior to occupation.

A completed unilateral undertaking has not been provided to secure this legal obligation. As submitted, there is no certainty that the development would not adversely affect the integrity of European Designated Sites and the application is therefore contrary to Policies EN6 and EN11a of the Saved Tendring District Local Plan 2007, Policy PPL4 of the emerging Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond Publication Draft and Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2017.

**DATED:** 10th March 2021

**SIGNED:**




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Graham Nourse  
Assistant Director  
Planning Service

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION** :-

The local planning authority considers that the following policies and proposals in the development plan are relevant to the above decision:

National Planning Practice Guidance

Tendring District Local Plan 2007

QL1 Spatial Strategy

QL9 Design of New Development

QL10 Designing New Development to Meet Functional Needs

QL11 Environmental Impacts and Compatibility of Uses

HG1 Housing Provision

HG3 Residential Development Within Defined Settlements

HG6 Dwelling Size and Type

HG9 Private Amenity Space

HG14 Side Isolation

EN6 Biodiversity

EN11A Protection of International Sites European Sites and RAMSAR Sites

EN17 Conservation Areas

TR1A Development Affecting Highways

TR7 Vehicle Parking at New Development

Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond Publication Draft (June 2017)

SPL1 Managing Growth

SPL2 Settlement Development Boundaries

SPL3 Sustainable Design

LP2 Housing Choice

LP3 Housing Density and Standards

LP4 Housing Layout

PPL4 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

PPL8 Conservation Areas

CP1 Sustainable Transport and Accessibility

Local Planning Guidance

Essex County Council Car Parking Standards - Design and Good Practice

## Conservation Area Character Appraisals

### Positive and Proactive Statement

The Local Planning Authority has acted positively and proactively in determining this application by identifying matters of concern with the proposal and discussing those with the Agent. However, the issues are so fundamental to the proposal that it has not been possible to negotiate a satisfactory way forward and due to the harm which has been clearly identified within the reasons for the refusal, approval has not been possible.

**The attached notes explain the rights of appeal.**

## NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

### WHEN PLANNING PERMISSION IS REFUSED OR GRANTED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

#### APPEALS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

- If you are aggrieved by the decision of your local planning authority to refuse permission for the proposed development or to grant it subject to conditions, then you can appeal to the Secretary of State under Section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- If you want to appeal, then you must do so within the set time frame as outlined below:
  - a. If this is a decision to refuse planning permission for a householder application, if you want to appeal against your local planning authority's decision then you must do so within **12 weeks** of the date of this notice. A **Householder Appeal Form** is required, available online at <https://www.gov.uk/planning-inspectorate>
  - b. If this is a decision to refuse planning permission for a minor commercial application, if you want to appeal against your local planning authority's decision then you must do so within **12 weeks** of the date of this notice. A **Planning Appeal Form** is required, available online at <https://www.gov.uk/planning-inspectorate>
  - c. If you want to appeal against your local planning authority's decision on a development which is not caught by a. and b. above then you must do so within **6 months** of the date of this notice. A **Planning Appeal Form** is required, available online at <https://www.gov.uk/planning-inspectorate>
- Appeals must be made using the relevant form (as detailed above) which you can get from the Secretary of State at Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN (Tel: 0303 444 5000) or online at <https://www.gov.uk/planning-inspectorate>. **Please note, only the applicant possesses the right of appeal.**
- The Secretary of State can allow a longer period for giving notice of an appeal, but will not normally be prepared to use this power unless there are special circumstances which excuse the delay in giving notice of appeal.
- The Secretary of State need not consider an appeal if it seems to the Secretary of State that the local planning authority could not have granted permission for the proposed development or could not have granted it without the conditions imposed having regard to the statutory requirements, to the provisions of any development order and to any directions given under a development order.
- If you intend to submit an appeal that you would like examined by inquiry then you must notify the Local Planning Authority and Planning Inspectorate (inquiryappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) at least 10 days before submitting the appeal. [Further details are on GOV.UK.](#)

#### ENFORCEMENT

- If this is a decision on a planning application relating to the same or substantially the same land and development as is already the subject of an enforcement notice, if you want to appeal against your local planning authority's decision on your application, then you must do so within 28 days of the date of this notice.
- If an enforcement notice is served relating to the same or substantially the same land and development as in your application and if you want to appeal against your local planning authority's decision on your application, then you must do so within 28 days of the date of service of the enforcement notice, or within 6 months (12 weeks in the case of a householder or minor commercial appeal) of the date of this notice, whichever period expires earlier.