



Sir or madam:

It has been brought to my attention that Cannock Chase Council has the intended plan of developing houses South of Cannock Road, Heath Hayes. There is a proposal for approximately 2000 new dwellings to be sited at this location. I wish to lodge a **formal objection to this development**.

I reside at:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

As a local resident for over 40 years, I have seen many changes to my home town. The poor planning decisions made by various council representatives over many years have failed our prosperous towns within our districts. Areas that were once a hub for community, co-operation and kinship are, under your stewardship, descending into suburbs of Birmingham where local citizens can no longer receive health care, education, cannot travel due to poorly managed traffic conditions and are no longer safe within their communities. It is my belief that if Cannock Council permits this poorly conceived plan to progress it will be to the detriment of local resident's and the wider community. I ask that Cannock Council – my local council – consider the following points and the **negative impact** on local residents when making their decisions.

1) Within our local area, the now excessive amount of traffic within the Heath Hayes neighbourhood is having a significant impact on local people's ability to travel. Despite the poorly conducted traffic studies that assessed the amount of traffic brought into our area by the McArthur

Glen shopping village, residents are clear that significant hold-ups take place every day on Eastern Way (A460) and on Cannock Road, Five Ways Island. This significant, daily congestion degrades air quality and prevents movement of traffic. Indeed, the Local Government Association have recognised this in their report "A country in a jam: tackling congestion in our towns and cities" stating that "Councils, as local traffic authorities, have a statutory duty to manage their networks with the aim of 'securing the expeditious movement of traffic'".

The area around Heath Hayes has an identified problem with car cruising. This has resulted in the police imposing controls over this activity. Despite this, we still have speeding cars driving on the Eastern Way dual-carriageway, and racing around Heath Hayes and the A5190 Lichfield Road. This results in noise pollution in the evenings whilst families try to sleep. During the day, we regularly hear traffic noise from once quiet roads and this continues to be a problem for local people. These poorly conceived plans will exacerbate a problem which already exists for local residents.

2) Local healthcare infrastructure within the Cannock Chase District is already faltering. We now have to travel to Wolverhampton New Cross Hospital for our local health care needs. It is widely recognised that this hospital cannot cope with increasing patient numbers. Local GP surgeries are refusing to take patients due to an increase in numbers and local dentists are also refusing to take patients (including children). The number of people within our communities continues to rapidly rise without the vital healthcare services we need. Specialist services are refusing to see patients. I have had first-hand experience of this. As a diabetic, my local diabetic clinic in Heath Hayes have refused to see me for my regular check-ups as I am 'too well'. Instead, referring me to my local GP, until "my condition gets worse". Do Cannock Council intend to see local residents' health care suffer because of their poor planning decisions? A number of new doctors and dentists surgeries will be required to alleviate pressure on local services. A further expansion to local hospitals will be needed to ensure that local people can access emergency healthcare services.

3) Our local schools are now oversubscribed. Kingsmead High School and Norton Canes High School are both the local catchment secondary schools for students within the Heath Hayes district (although some do attend Cannock Chase High School and Chase Terrace High School as they were unable to get into the other schools). The local plan makes no reference to Secondary schools and the provision of a quality education. For the proposed housing to be practicable, significant investment in Secondary schools will be required for existing oversubscribed schools and to ensure adequate provision for new students.

The provision of specialist services in Staffordshire such as SEND, CAMHS and Autism Outreach cannot cope with existing numbers, with an autism diagnosis already taking in excess of 3 years due to significant demands placed on services. Local Primary schools are also struggling due to numbers and as the education crisis worsens with fewer graduates wishing to teach, can we expect a new Primary school to satisfactorily educate our youngsters? Consideration must be given to these issues and how they will impinge on our local Cannock residents.

4) Cannock is a beautiful place to live. We love our town and only want the best for our families and our local community. Local greenbelt is an important part of our history and local people hope to retain the charm of our long established community. We are also concerned for the negative effects the new estate will have on the local wildlife and their habitats. Further complications with the Cannock Chase SAC and Regulations 11 and 13-15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 must be enacted to ensure that no damage will be done to the local habitats. Having lost much of our green space over recent years, we abhor the continued removal of our much loved green spaces and our local wildlife that Cannock Council have destroyed. Are we to experience environmental insensitivity once again?

5) Cannock Chase appears to be meeting the needs of neighbouring Birmingham Council (Policy TP48 of the Birmingham Development Plan). As Cannock residents, we have no obligation to meet the overflow requirements of cities 20 miles away. Our local identity is being undermined and the exodus of citizens from Birmingham brings unwanted 'city problems' into our local community. This is already being experienced through issues with County lines drug dealing and a number of assaults taking place around Cannock train station where issues are regularly experienced by local residents.

6) Policing within our community is already strained, despite facing our highest ever tax burden. At weekends local Police can confirm that less than six patrol officers work from the Cannock station covering an area from Brocton, across the Cannock Chase area and also serving South Staffordshire. These limited numbers of officers already cannot cope with the Policing challenges they encounter. Knowingly placing further strain on our already undermanned and overstretched local Police force is reprehensible.

I urge Cannock Council to consider those that the council represents. The objections of Cannock residents **must be heard** and used to reach the conclusion that the developments in Heath Hayes (A5190) **must not** be allowed to progress. The development does not meet local needs and will be to the detriment local people. Any civic-minded council who are concerned about their local citizens and community would ensure that this plan is halted.

Yours hopefully,

Matthew Ryder

Matthew Ryder BSc (Hons) MRes MSc PgD MBCS MCCT NPQSL

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