

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan

I have written before to express concern about the Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan which I feel poses a threat to the quality of life in the village. In particular I feel that the development of the Angel Theatre as proposed by the Parish Council is not only unviable for a population of this size but also poses a threat to the quiet residential nature of the village and is entirely unsuitable for the narrow roads (Walnut Tree Avenue and Sycamore Drive).

A residential development as proposed by the owners of the Angel Theatre site is much to be preferred. Further retail development beyond what we already have would be better placed on Bentwaters Park where there is ample parking space and where the ensuing traffic would not interfere with village life; or alternatively at Rendlesham Mews where the retailers would also benefit from (much needed) passing trade. Serious consideration needs to be given to what is viable – witness the current difficulties that Costcutters is apparently experiencing.

Much has been said about the apparent advantages of the Neighbourhood Plan. There is a need to raise awareness of the disadvantages – in particular the increase in traffic – before an informed choice can be made by residents. It is clear that many are sensitive to traffic noise as evidenced by the complaints about nuisance driving. But when I talk to others, there seems to be little awareness of the increase in traffic that the Neighbourhood Plan would bring about.

As regards leisure facilities in the village, it could be argued that the community building falls short of what might have been expected. Therefore the use of the Sports Centre to expand these facilities – and to provide more space for the school – is perhaps viable. I say perhaps as I understand that the Sports Centre was not viable when it was open for business in the past.

We live in an area with easily accessible leisure facilities – within 7 to 15 minutes drive we have Snape Maltings, Sutton Hoo and of course Woodbridge. As regards the village itself, it would be better to focus on the development of small scale leisure facilities, particularly for teenagers, e.g. a skate park, provided a location can be found where the noise will not be a disturbance. A sense of community is also best nurtured by the encouragement of local societies and clubs, for which we are already well supplied with meeting places – the community building, the school and two churches.

Thank you for considering these points.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Johnson