



## Objection to Planning Application 55318/001 Due to Inadequate Community Involvement and Lack of Trust

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Dear Samantha Owen,

I am writing to extend my objection to planning application 55318/001 for the proposed development at Land west of Beechlands Road, South Medstead, Alton. This objection focuses solely on the inadequacies of the community involvement report and the general lack of trust in Bargate Homes' consultation practices.

### KEY CONCERNS

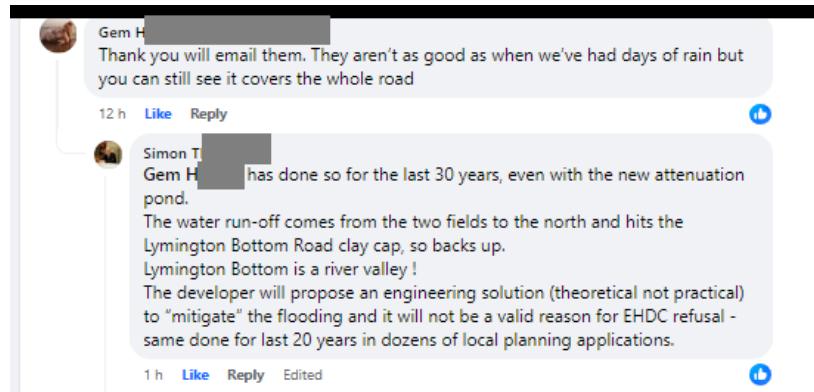
#### Inadequate Community Involvement

##### **Limited and Biased Consultation Reach:**

The community engagement process, which reached only 753 addresses and yielded 39 feedback forms and 4 emails, is insufficient and unrepresentative. Furthermore, there are concerns that employees or affiliates of Bargate Homes, particularly those residing in the first phase of the Medstead development, might have provided biased feedback.

##### **Superficial Responses to Concerns:**

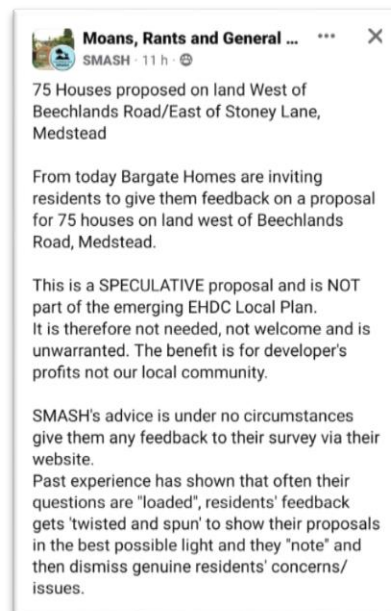
The developer's responses to community concerns, such as those about infrastructure and social services, appear superficial and lack substantive evidence. This raises doubts about the commitment to genuinely addressing these issues.



## General Lack of Trust in Consultation Practices

### Manipulated Feedback:

Based on observations from local Facebook groups there is a significant lack of trust in Bargate Homes' consultation practices. Residents have reported that their concerns are often twisted to present the developer's proposals in a favourable light, dismissing genuine feedback.





### Fear of Voicing Opinions:

Many residents are scared to voice their opinions on social media due to the perception that developers monitor these platforms and manipulate feedback to suit their agenda. This environment of fear and distrust undermines the integrity of the consultation process.



### Uncontrolled Development and Ineffective Mitigation

#### Lack of Comprehensive EIAs:

The absence of full Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) leaves the cumulative impacts of multiple developments unassessed. This uncontrolled development contributes to the erosion of the village's character and quality of life.

#### Ineffective Mitigation Measures:

Historical data and resident feedback indicate that proposed mitigation measures, such as those for flood risk management, are often theoretical and fail to address practical issues. This has resulted in persistent problems, such as the flooding at the Lymington Bottom Road and Redhill junction.



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## Prioritisation of Development Targets Over Community Needs

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### **EHDC's Focus on Targets:**

It appears that the primary concern of the EHDC is to meet development targets rather than ensuring sustainable and community-oriented development. This focus on targets, without considering the broader impacts on the village, exacerbates the negative effects of the development.

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### **Conclusion**

Given the significant issues with the community involvement process, the lack of trust in the consultation practices, and the broader concerns about uncontrolled development and ineffective mitigation measures, it is clear that the planning process is fundamentally flawed. It is crucial that a comprehensive and transparent approach is taken to address these concerns genuinely and ensure that the development aligns with the community's needs and sustainable practices.

I strongly recommend a thorough review of the community involvement process, the implementation of comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and an independent audit of EHDC's planning procedures to restore trust and integrity in the planning process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Note: For privacy reasons, all personal information including a signature has been attached as a separate document, as any comments on the planning application are intended to be published by EHDC.