Planning Application

2 Herbert Road, Sompting

Ref: AWDM/1862/21

Mr & Mrs M. Rumble,

3 Herbert Road,

Sompting.

BN15 0JT

Dear Mr Peck,

COMMENT ON PLANNING APPLICATION 28th October 2021

Planning Policies / Previous Decisions

Whilst this application may be in line with current planning policies it would seem that those policies do not take into account the cumulative adverse effects that many developments in a small area and in a short space of time, may have on existing residents / householders who live in the area. We would like the officers / committee to consider the amount of development that has taken place within a 200 yard radius of our house in the last 2 years and factor this into your decision.

Noise, disturbance, traffic and smells

In this period we have experienced disturbance from building works from No's 59, 61, 63 and 65 Valley Road. This has included endless noise, working often in the evenings and all day on Saturdays and Sundays (varying between the premises which may have some joint working arrangements?). Only 59 & 61 have planning permission (AWDM/1115/20 AWDM/1116/20)

There is a small business operating from the garage of a premises opposite us in Herbert Road which starts in the early hours of the morning with sawing and drilling noises heard at intermittent times during the day and evening.

The owner of another nearby premises in Herbert Road installed a dormer to the roof of the premises about 2 years ago which took several months to complete and the works were audible from every room in our house and took place at weekends as well as on workdays.

A car repair business operates from time to time from another house on the east side of Herbert Road and is audible from our house, especially when revving noises are heard from vehicles and banging and mechanised cutting noises are heard from their garage. The household also maintain a kennel of five or six assorted dogs which are loaded barking and yelping into a van for their daily walk at about 0730 most mornings and which can also be heard in the front rooms of the house. These matters have been reported to Environmental Health on a number of occasions, but because they are intermittent, no enforcement action has been taken.

Planning permission (AWDM/0372/21) has also been granted for the erection of 2 dormers and allied roof-works at 28 Valley Road, which backs onto our garden, and some internal work has already commenced which is audible inside our house and has taken place, on occasions from 8am until 8pm.

Whilst these circumstances cannot be attributed to the applicants, this development and its associated construction noise, vehicle movements, drilling, sawing, tile cutting, erection of scaffolding, cement mixers, dust and worker's chatter etc; will have a cumulative effect upon our right (under the Human Rights Act) to quiet enjoyment of our possessions (including our house and garden), and especially, after months of 'lockdown' upon our mental health.

My wife is retired and is at home most of the time. I am semi-retired but work from home. As the premises is just across the road noise from the works will be heard in every room in our house. It will be impossible to use and enjoy our front and rear garden during the times construction is in progress.

If planning permission is granted it would appear the applicants will have a period of 5 years to carry out the work, and we have no idea whether this will be a 'one hit' project or be staggered over many months or years with the associated uncertainty and worry that will bring.

Valley Road, Herbert Road and the entire Hillbarn Estate has changed, in the 24 years we have lived here, from a quiet 1930's residential estate into something between a commercial industrial estate and a building site and this proposal will further accelerate that process.

Highway Safety, traffic and parking

The roads on the Hillbarn Estate are very narrow and were designed for small 1930's cars but have had to endure a massive increase in the size and nature of vehicles. Large delivery lorries regularly park on the pavement and the Number 7 Bus has to negotiate an obstacle course down Valley Road and up Herbert Road. Works traffic coming to this location (and parking outside) will add to this traffic and lead to an increase in pollution levels, noise and disturbance. The proposed works is opposite the ongoing roof-works at 59 and 61 Valley Road where vans and lorries are regularly parked in the road and on the pavement. These works can only further contribute to traffic obstruction and pose hazards to pedestrians.

If the proposal is approved we would request some strict guidelines; restricting work to weekdays and commencing no earlier than 0830 hours and terminating at 1700 hours; no work at weekends or bank holidays, in the hope that we can get a few hours of peace and quiet in our own home and garden.

Yours Sincerely

Mike & Jeannie Rumble

M & J Rumble