

Campaign to Save the Lanes of Lymington and Pennington gathers pace

The 700 members of the Pennington and Lymington Lanes Society have launched a campaign to 'Save the Lanes' in response to the planned development of at least 100 houses between Lower Pennington Lane and Ridgeway Lane in Lymington (Local Plan site SS6). Consultations have begun for an application for 82 units on part of the site which includes land within the New Forest National Park as well as cutting through an existing tree belt to link the Forest Gate Gardens cul de sac to the proposed housing estate.

Bruce Tindall, Chair of PALLS said, "This planning application confirms our worst fears. Despite promises that these ancient Lanes would be preserved, this development would culvert ditches and tarmac over sections of the green verges of Ridgeway Lane to create passing places for extra cars, vans and lorries. These are rural lanes. Their charm lies in their natural verges and tree lined edges. What they are not are wide urban streets with pavements. People enjoy exploring them: walking, jogging, dog-walking and cycling – all generations, from areas within Pennington and Lymington as well as further afield. This application gives no consideration for any pedestrian users, especially these recreational users of the lanes."

"There is a through-route planned across the site and this has never been justified. Along with the planned widening of Poles Lane and straightening of Ridgeway Lane within the National Park, it is an open invitation for rat-running through the site. It will increase traffic on the surrounding lanes, increase traffic speeds and increase the danger for pedestrian users."

"Following the 'community consultation' Cicero Estates have barely tweaked their proposals in response to the community's concerns. At the Local Plan Inquiry in 2019 the site-promoters gave us all assurances – highways were not a problem, drainage was not a problem, the National Park would be protected. They have failed to deliver on every point. Their proposals will urbanise the lanes and development encroaches into at least 1 hectare of the National Park in an attempt to drain the site. Quite frankly, you have to ask whether the site would have ever been allocated if this had been known at the time."

"Most importantly, this planning application is only part of the story. We are still waiting to see what will happen on the remainder of SS6 and our community is being asked to comment on the impacts on drainage, highways and so on with no idea of how the site will look as a whole. We were promised a comprehensive, well thought out development. We have nothing of the sort."

"So, three years after the whole site was allocated Cicero Estates now present the community with a speculative, piecemeal development which ignores local people's wishes and persists in pushing the agenda of the site promoters and landowners – urbanisation of Ridgeway Lane, the widening of Poles Lane junction, a rat-run through the site and now major development in the National Park. All this in order to deliver this housing estate."

"PALLS has called upon on Lymington and Pennington Town Council to call a public meeting to discuss this application as so many other town and parish councils have done and we are pleased to say that they have agreed to this. We expect the date to be announced in the near future."

"We urge everyone to take these threats seriously, see this application for exactly what it is and object now."

“Anyone interested in joining our campaign can join PALLS through our website www.pennandlymlanes.com.”