

CLUSTER 40

Village Cluster Thurlton THU1, specifically the proposed 12 dwellings as continuation of Blacksmiths Gardens accessed via Beccles Road.

The existing development contains 30 dwellings and the proposal would extend the number to 42 in total.

The Highways Agency clearly already have concerns and limited any further development of Blacksmiths Gardens to 12 dwellings as part of their assessment of the proposal. There exist highly significant details that may not have been taken into consideration or which require change.

The existing road is around 4.8 metres wide and commences from Beccles Road with two footpaths one either side both wide enough for two pedestrians, each path around 1.5 metres wide. The footpaths continue only for the opening hundred metres or so from Beccles Road and afterwards change to a single footpath of 1 metre through the majority of the development. See attached photos.

Leaving aside the dangers of temporary site traffic, the road will be an ongoing major hazard and extremely dangerous for pedestrians, children, prams and wheelchair users where the footpaths either disappear or narrow severely unless reconstructed to maintain a safe environment with the two footpaths extended to at least the same as the opening one hundred metres.

A road width of 4.8 metres with two footpaths of 1.5 metres one each side seems to be the regulatory or standard adopted when constructing developments of more than 30 dwellings.

Additionally national standards require a kerb height of between 100 to 150 mm. Again the existing road conforms for the opening one hundred metres. Thereafter, although present, the kerb height reduces to 12 to 20 mm, as such almost nonexistent and no barrier to prevent vehicles from encroaching onto the single narrow pavement. See attached photos.

There have been numerous instances in icy conditions where vehicles have skidded onto the pavement where the road curves and in one event actually entered the very small front gardens of one property and nearly hit the bungalow concerned. This resulted in the local authorities providing a road gritting repository for use by residents to mitigate the danger. Such danger will be exacerbated with additional volume of traffic.

Secondly there are environmental matters that need consideration. The proposed field is used each evening other than any hibernation period by a colony of Bats for foraging. All UK bat species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Furthermore there is evidence that a pair of Black Redstarts are regular spring

visitors to the proposed site and gardens adjacent to the area designated. These birds are a Schedule 1 species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. See attached photo of male black redstart taken in one of the gardens.

Therefore both concerns, highway safety and environmental matters require a thorough detailed examination and investigation before any proposal for this site proceeds further.

Finally, please find attached copies of petition signed by residents of Blacksmiths Gardens.

Sandra Bell