

Good Morning and thank you for allowing me to speak.

I am Sue Featherstone. I am not a Ward Councillor for this development: my Ward is on either side of it, close by. Bricket Wood and Chiswell Green.

I am not on the Planning Committee that dealt with this application, however I did speak on it and attended in person in May.

I do not support building on greenfield, green belt land. However, this site has so many buildings and hard standings that I can accept it being developed.

I have been contacted by residents and their families in my Ward, that would benefit from down-sizing, to free-up large homes for families. They would much prefer to move close-by to maintain their friends and social life, instead of having to move away from the area to obtain care and support.

The benefits so eloquently put by Dianah Ellis.

Having attended the Planning Referrals Meeting, I am concerned about two (2) issues.

One was confusion with the Pegasus Crossing the applicant sought to provide. Some councillors thought it only crossed one side of the dual carriageway (A405). The plan clearly shows it crossing traffic lanes in both directions, with a holding area in the central reserve.

Horse riders, cyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair users and mobility scooter users would find this crossing of benefit.

Residents of the proposed development would not only benefit from the bridleway to reach the shops at How Wood, but in the other direction, with a light controlled crossing and safe holding area in the middle of the A405, to reach the Post Office and shops in Chiswell Green.

My second issue is the discussion of the Care Home on the North Eastern part of the site. This was very misleading.

To reiterate, I very much support the development, which would provide much needed adult care and support in the area.

Addendum

There was a claim in the opening statement for the Council that inconsistent decisions on similar applications would reduce public confidence in the planning system. In this case, local public confidence in the planning system was considerably reduced when the original application was refused because of a casting vote from a Chairman who lived twenty miles from the site. It was reduced still further when this application was refused in May 2021. That confidence would be restored, rather than diminished, were the appeal allowed.