18th April 2012

Dear Mr. Williams

Ridgewood Farm Development

I refer to a leaflet dropped through my door from the Ridings Action Group from which I understand that there is a proposal to build 1000 houses, primary school, industrial units and offices on the southwest side of Uckfield.

This development will have a massive impact on everyone living in and around Uckfield and many of the issues remain the same as when I objected to the Harlands Farm development, and the two on the Eastbourne & Lewes Roads.

In 2006 I attended a council meeting regarding the application for Harlands Farm and it was only to be considered providing the Uckfield road infrastructure was improved. Since that time there have been the above two further developments on the south side of Uckfield, both on roads leading to the roundabout leading to even more congestion at peak times. Each of the new developments mentioned above has had one small, and inconvenient, roundabout put in place. I hardly call this a significant nt change to the road infrastructure.

The issues which underpin my strong objections to this new, large application are as follows:-

1. **After the proposed development is completed and working on an average of 1.5 cars per household, there would be a significant increase in traffic coming into and around Uckfield, increasing the traffic and parking congestion further.**
2. **Working on the basis that a good percentage of the new occupants will come from outside Uckfield, there will be an increase in demand for doctors (already at capacity), dentists, town parking, the community hospital, the community college, and topically the wastewater & freshwater supplies. At a time of drought, how do you propose that these properties will be provided readily with water supplies? I have already written to Southern & South East Water to obtain answers to these questions.**
3. **Can you confirm that building 1000 dwellings built on land that currently takes away water & melting snow will not exacerbate the risk of flooding? We live at the bottom of Eagle Close, Ridgewood, and in 2000 it was not the swollen water from the river at the rear of our property that was the threat but the drainage that could not take away the rainwater quickly enough. Just last year when Uckfield experienced intense rainfall, our garage was flooded because the drains did not cope with the amount of rainfall in such a short period of**

time. Another 1000 dwellings will lead to water running away rather than into the ground.

4. **The addition of 1000 dwellings and the related cars in this area will further exacerbate the congestion at the A26/A22 roundabout at peak times. At present the queue south of Uckfield High Street stretches back to the A22/A26 roundabout at 8.30 a.m. made up of the 'school-run' and individuals endeavouring to get to work in and around Uckfield.**

5. **Based on an approximate population of 21000 in Uckfield and households of 11000 the increase proposed on this development alone amounts to around 10%. This would mean a significant investment in the roads, rail, shops, and other services, not *after* the event but *before*. What plans exist before the proposed development commences?**

Overall I am surprised that in these challenging times there is demand for yet another housing development in Uckfield, a thriving town yes, but not exactly bursting with job opportunities. Surely the economic conditions have not substantially improved and we have yet to see whether all the properties on the other two aforementioned sites are to be sold.

I do not class myself as a 'tree-hugging' green party person but I am truly concerned that this beautiful part of East Sussex will become another urban sprawl, more like Crawley without the job opportunities and infrastructure to support it.

I appreciate that you will not respond to individual letters but I would like to be informed of further developments with regard to this application.

Thank you

Yours sincerely,

Carol Baker (Mrs)

c.c. Cllr. John Carvey