

Sawbridgeworth Town Council

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MAYOR
Cllr Annelise Furnace

TOWN CLERK
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TO: Sara Saunders, Head of Planning, East Herts District Council 9th February 2021
CC Cllr Jonathan Kaye, Chairman, East Herts District Council
County Cllr Eric Buckmaster, District Cllrs Ruth Buckmaster, Angela Alder, John Burmitz
David Snell, East Herts District Council

Re: West Road construction site traffic, Sawbridgeworth

Dear Ms Saunders,

I am writing on behalf of Sawbridgeworth Town Council to express our grave concern over problems caused by construction site traffic in West Road in relation to the Barratt Homes development. In recent weeks we have received numerous reports from residents about damage being caused to grass verges, construction traffic not following weight limits, and not using designated routes. HGVs have also been seen leaving the site past the 3pm school pick up time which is not supposed to happen.

We understand there is no approved Construction Management Plan for the site, and we cannot understand why works have been allowed to begin given Condition 7, which stipulates "prior to the commencement of the development, a detailed Construction Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority".

Furthermore, regarding the second development site on West Road (Taylor Wimpey), a letter from Houlihan & Co (01/02/2021) makes no mention of restricted hours for construction site traffic implying deliveries of plant and material can be anytime between 0800 to 1800 Monday to Friday and 0800 to 1300 Saturdays. These works are set to take up to 16 weeks. Yet there is no mention of vehicle movements being restricted past the 3pm school pick up time.

Our schools will potentially return to face-to-face teaching for all pupils in March, increasing the number of pedestrians and cars in the vicinity. We are extremely concerned about the safety of pupils, parents and other residents given reports of cars mounting pavements in order to get around HGVs blocking the highway.

We have also received reports from local businesses that are worried about the impact of construction site traffic movements on their trade.

We would therefore like to receive the following information:

- Why work has been allowed to commence before Construction Management Plans are in place and approved
- What enforcement mechanisms will ensure these Plans are adhered to
- How local residents and businesses can report incidents to monitoring officers and how both they and Sawbridgeworth Town Council will be updated on the results
- How impacts on residents and businesses in and around West Road will be mitigated.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,
Annelise Furnace
Cllr Annelise Furnace
Mayor of Sawbridgeworth