

Swale Joint Transportation Board - Paper to be tabled - Item No. 9

Dear Chairman,

TRO - Bus Link, Great Easthall, Sittingbourne. Swale Joint Transportation Board, 9 September, 2013

The Great Easthall development, which benefits from an outline planning permission for the wider site, was supported at the time by a Transport Assessment produced by Capita Symonds. This took into account detailed forecasts on growth factors and traffic generation produced by the development. The development is acceptable in planning terms in it's current format, which only ever envisaged the bus link as being used by buses, cycles and pedestrians.

It is merely conjecture to assume that the bus link could be 'opened up' or that this would be acceptable in planning or traffic engineering terms. Furthermore, Countryside Properties as landowner, would not seek to seek permission for such a change given we are currently progressing this area to be adopted under a Section 38 agreement by Kent County Council.

Design - The bus link itself was only ever designed for vehicular use by buses. It has no other acceptable use from an engineering perspective. The current Great Easthall development is not even half way through in terms of its housing trajectory. Current completions stand at c. 380 dwellings, which when completed will feature c. 850 dwellings. It is simply not feasible for the bus link to support this level of traffic, nor is it acceptable for the community at Oak Road / surrounding areas to absorb this level of traffic.

Access to Facilities - Whilst there is only one vehicular access point (cars) for residents at the main entrance of the site, there are a number of sustainable connections, both existing and proposed which will support short journeys into the adjacent areas for access to both shops and schools. This would include footpath ZR189, footpath ZU16, the bus link itself and a proposed new crossing point at Tonge Road which is being provided by Kent County Council to the south of the Bovis housing areas. The site will eventually have its own facilities on site, including a community hall being provided by Swale Borough Council, and shall benefit from the much anticipated Northern Relief Road - Phase 2 which will connect the A249 to the A2.

These representations are submitted in addition to my previous comments.

Regards
Thomas

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New Homes and Communities
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