

I am Gillian Price and am a resident of Ansford.

My main area of concern is the A371, the main routeway for haulage vehicles passing through the town to the A303. I live half way up Ansford Hill, along Lower Ansford, close to the road and just beyond the blind bend. I hear, see and witness issues related to traffic and pedestrians that the casual observer would miss and indeed a Highways inspector on occasional visits to check things out would miss.

It is already a potential safety hazard in the vicinity of Station Road and Ansford Hill - and the access point to the appeal site is in the middle of this stretch!!! It is not so much the volume or speed but the actual size of vehicle which is increasing all the time. We are talking 40 tonnes plus and long articulated haulage lorries.. They thunder up and down 24/7 and at times struggle to pass one another. We have witnessed lorries stacking up on this section of road as two large lorries slowly ease past one another.. Walking alongside on the path you get sucked in by the slipstream and then bounced back as the vehicle passes. The single pavement is too narrow causing most folk to walk in single file, obviously feeling the full force of large vehicles passing close by. Cars drive far too fast despite the recent calming points painted along the road. I was grazed on my quilted coat sleeve two years ago by a wing mirror from a car driven by a nervous driver coming up the hill as they tried to avoid an enormous tanker coming in the opposite direction. I was pretty shaken but imagine if it had caught a rigid push chair, a group of young children.....Then there is the blind corner near the crossing point for the path to the railway station. I have witnessed too many people getting half way across and then having to run the remaining half to avoid a car coming at speed around the corner. Lorries hurtle down the road and I question whether or not they will be able to stop in time when they round the bend and see cars leaving the access point.

What will happen if/when we get 200 more homes emptying their vehicles and people on to this road. The access point to the planned site is right in the middle of all this.

I challenge the appellants claim yesterday that, quote 'there will be minimal reliance on the car'

The housing development will add more cars to the road on a daily basis, and lots more white vans delivering to the homes. No one is going to walk to the town to do their weekly food shopping. They will get in their cars and drive. They will drive to the surgery, to the dentist... The site is so isolated and distant from the main centre that I question just how much they will use the local shops and facilities. How can they ever feel part of the community?? This increased traffic will just add to the already significant problems. This will also contribute to the air pollution as well as all the passing vehicles having to slow down, stop, pull out from, turn into and accelerate away from all the access point and crossings etc.

Walking to school will be a huge safety issue. Pupils of secondary age hoping to walk to Ansford Academy (assuming there is space available) will face the problem of not having a continuous path to follow. It comes to an end where the road narrows along the steep banks requiring walkers to cross the busy road at the top of the hill. No crossing exists at this point so making another will surely cause cars to back up again. It is also very narrow and I wouldn't want school children jostling around on their way to school alongside some of the super sized lorries that pass. The other alternative is to drive them to school. More traffic!! Primary children will have to cross the road and then face a long walk across the town to the primary school - or will be drive!

In my opinion the issue of public safety is paramount in making this decision. I fear that the proposed site will make an already vulnerable area even more unsafe.