

Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Residents Association

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Please Respond to: "Rosedell"

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11th June 2013

Head of Major Projects
Highways
Essex County Council
Market Road
Chelmsford, CM1 1QH

Dear Head of Major Projects

A number of residents have raised concerns about the safety of Sadlers Farm and the increased flooding it has caused in Pound Lane. The concerns are listed as follows:

1. The London Road (B1464) turn off from the roundabout looks like a dual carriageway because of the way it is sectioned off from the bus lane. The way ahead is not clear due to the way the road has been raised to accommodate the underpass. People not used to the area, and taking what appears to be the "outside lane of the dual carriageway", would not be aware of on-coming traffic until vehicles were almost facing each other. **There is a serious accident waiting to happen here.**
2. Any traffic can use the bus lane. The traffic lights prioritise the traffic in the bus lane turning the lights in the main traffic lane red. After going through the green traffic lights in the bus lane those vehicles then push in by moving to the right (where the traffic in the main traffic lane has come to a halt in front of the red lights) **and causes a queue in the main traffic lane.**
3. Many drivers coming from London Road and through the green traffic lights, and seeing the traffic lights prior to the junction with the A130 Chelmsford exit do not realise that they have to stop again at the roundabout. The white lines are not clear especially if there is traffic in front of you moving forward. Some drivers believe that the traffic lights give them clear access to the next set of lights. There is a danger of traffic failing to stop at the roundabout being hit by traffic coming from the right i.e. from the Basildon or Canvey junctions. **Another serious accident waiting to happen.**
4. Traffic, travelling in the correct lane i.e. not the bus lane, turning left into the Sadlers Farm industrial site have to cross an additional lane of traffic. **Yet another serious accident waiting to happen.**
5. Traffic coming out of Sadlers Farm industrial site and turning right have to cross two lanes of traffic coming from the right i.e. the traffic lane and the bus lane. This is very difficult as the way the road has been raised does not give clear visibility of on-coming traffic. **And, yet another serious accident waiting to happen.**

6. There have always been floods in Pound Lane, the plotlands and several residential gardens in the village. There is a minor flood beside the post box and a more serious flood between the junction with Burnt Mills and Harrow Road. Floods have been worse in the last 2 years and particularly bad last year. We are told that a lagoon, on the far side of the A13 takes the surface water from the Sadlers Farm Roundabout. This in turn drains under the London Road and down through Pound Lane. The flood occurs because the water cannot get under the A127 quickly enough. We believe that the drainage from the Sadlers Farm Roundabout has exacerbated an existing problem. **What thought went into draining the surface water from Sadlers Farm and the knock on effect elsewhere?**

We would also point out that our residents in London Road, Bowers Court Drive and Highlands Crescent continue to suffer noise and the inconvenience of night lighting from the site. Dust and dirt from the project is suffered throughout our village.

Residents in London Road have also suffered noise and lights flashing at night from emergency vehicle attending accidents.

Due to the recession and so many closures on the industrial site the volume of traffic is not so high as in previous years. However, if we ever get out of this recession, we are not sure how Sadlers Farm would cope in the future. The new dock in Corringham will also bring many more lorries on to local roads.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact the writer for clarification.

We are seriously concerned about future accidents and flooding caused by the poor design of this project.

We look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Rose Griffin
Chairman

Copy to Basildon District Council