

Your views

Saffron Walden Reporter

54 High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1EE

EDITORIAL

Telephone: 01799 512882 / 512883
E-mail: editor@saffronwalden-reporter.co.uk

Editor Andy Veale
01480 44347
andy.veale@archant.co.uk

Chief Reporter Daniel Barden
01799 512882
daniel.barden@archant.co.uk

Reporter Sam Tonkin
01799 512890
sam.tonkin@archant.co.uk

ADVERTISING

Fax: 01480 411481
E-mail: sales@saffronwalden-reporter.co.uk

Sales Executive Ellie Riley
07918 767939
ellie.riley@archant.co.uk

Recruitment Debbie Cole
01480 411481
debbie.cole@archant.co.uk

Trades & Services Hayden Armes
01480 443439
hayden.ames@archant.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION

Telephone: 01438 866130
Email: distributionqueries@archant.co.uk

LEAFLETS

Telephone: 01438 866072
Email: elena.goakes@archant.co.uk

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ON THE WEB

Most viewed stories

1. Man dies after being hit by train at Newport
2. Stansted Airport welcomes first touch-down of China Southern Airlines
3. Man killed after being hit by train is named
4. Eisenham residents revel in Olympic success of showjumper Ben Maher
5. Surprise royal visit at Stansted

Tweet of the week

"I can't believe a former Saffron Walden County High School student won a gold medal! #benmaher"

@MadeleinelLydiaP



Don't just plonk more houses on us

AS someone who has known Saffron Walden for over 60 years and used it for school, shopping, leisure and work I too am appalled at the prospect of another 880 homes stuck on to its fringes.

It should be accepted that the town has a medieval heart and that significant traffic problems already exist.

Recent developments have taken away valuable green 'breathing space' from the South Road/Peaslands Road area.

I am even more appalled though at the number of dwellings likely to be foisted on to Elsenham where I live.

The sewer was installed in 1975 and we have accepted continual development ever since, mostly made up of very small houses with very small gardens coupled with infilling on small plots and with a decreasing number of village facilities.

We are now faced with the prospect of the construction of 53 more small houses and gardens with inadequate parking - already underway - and a further 155 houses plus an extra care home with 55 units. Very recently another development firm has signalled that it wants to put 38 houses behind The Crown public house; access will be via an existing housing estate which will have to have double yellow lines on one side of the spine road to cope with the traffic. These 300-odd dwellings would be on a base of just over 900, an extra 33 per cent.

There are no additional facilities offered, the primary school and the surgery will be stretched severely and the road/sewer infrastructure will not be able to cope. One bright idea by those wishing to put thousands of houses to link Henham and Elsenham was to close the level crossing at Elsenham station to all but pedestrians! Many people in Saffron Walden have never used the roads leading to and through Elsenham and are unaware of the weight, width and height restrictions in place, some cheerfully disregarded.

There are nearly 60 parishes in Uttlesford: to plonk all the alleged "necessary" housing in Walden, Dunmow and just six villages is ridiculous.

Many of the smaller villages could cope with, even need, 10-25 new dwellings especially as this could allow affordable housing to be distributed within them thus keeping families together. Even Barnston with its excellent road links to Braintree and Chelmsford could benefit.

Heather Salvidge
New Road
Elsenham

It's not a link road

FOLLOWING Uttlesford District Council's formal response to the Reporter's questions and objections to the current housing plans, I wanted to respond on one thing: in their response to the concerns about traffic flow in Saffron Walden, if we build 880 homes on the east of the town, they mention the plans for a link road from Thaxted Road to Radwinter Road.

This wouldn't be a link road as such. This is an access road for the new estate and you wouldn't be able to build a new estate without an access road. Cars will simply use this road to get to the houses in the estate, similar to Cromwell Road and Rowntree Way.

Traffic from this road will simply end up joining the queues that already exist to get through Saffron Walden's narrow streets, struggling to get from the east of the town to the west.

So this is no link road. It's a way for the developers to get the cars to the houses that they will build and adds nothing to the infrastructure of the town.

Dave McLellan
Mandeville road
Saffron Walden

Jackie Damary-homan
Gibson Gardens
Saffron Walden

Let there be lights

ALTHOUGH the last night of the Proms was excellent, I do feel that Audley End provided poor lighting for pedestrians and ought to use part of its profit to have lanterns at exits.

Pedestrians had to exit onto the road via the 'tree tunnel' at the Ice House Lodge entrance. This was unlit and dangerous.

I do not see why the police had to shine their torches to light the way by the gate. This whole section was totally dark with no light or stewards. Obviously a risk assessment had not been done. Management must look into this as an urgent matter for health and safety.

It would have cost very little to put in a few upright posts with luminous 20-minute light strips that could have been activated by a steward at the end of the concert, then thrown away. Considering the high ticket costs I expected greater care as it was Audrey End's decision to exit walkers down this dark unlit route.

A steward would not let us walk beside the cars to the green gate but at least one could see this exit with the car headlights.

It is not right that the police should have to assist people exiting this venue, but without them it would have been even more dangerous as trip hazards at the gate had to be managed when surely this was the organisers responsibility.

It's ironic that this is the very spot where posts have been put in to prevent

The winner of our star letter wins a ticket to Saffron Screen



parking but it was chosen as the drop of point. No joined up thinking here!

It is time Audley End was a little more thoughtful and less greedy. At £13 admission to house and gardens per adult, it has simply out priced itself. Could a scheme not be considered for residents, who could buy an annual garden season ticket pass to enjoy the grounds and outside events?

I'm afraid that when I get visitors I no longer take them around Audley End as at £50 for four it is too expensive. Maybe all these profits could buy temporary lighting for next season?

Walden we can make a real difference. To donate, please go to justgiving.com/teams/madteenqueen

Laila Zitouni
Rowntree Way
Saffron Walden

Closer than you think

I BELIEVE that the aims of Save Newport Village group and myself are far closer than many may think. There will no doubt be very differing views, particularly on how those aims should be achieved.

I would invite all interested parties to read in full the recent representation made by Pelham Structures in response to the latest consultation, these are available to view on the UDC website - Uttlesford District Council Policy Consultation Portal - Proposals for a Draft Local Plan June 2012.

The parish council has also been provided with the same information.

My latest proposals have been modified to accommodate the 300 houses suggested in the Draft District Plan for the northwest part of Newport in the following ways:

■ The utmost consideration has been given to the positioning and layout to minimise the impact on any existing properties and the rural nature of Whitditch Lane.

■ Essential highway changes have been proposed to massively improve safety for the staff and pupils at Newport School whilst simultaneously reducing congestion.

■ All suggestions and designs are intended to make Newport a far more sustainable community where people can live, work and shop without the need for unnecessary journeys.

If our plans were implemented, I believe they would protect and enhance local employment, encourage improved local retail facilities and enhance Newport's role as a vibrant and sustainable local community, improve safety and reduce congestion whilst having minimal negative impact on the community.

Bill Bampton
Managing director
Pelham Structures

Thanks to Dawn

MAY I please use the pages of your newspaper to say thank you to Dawn Thake, her daughter Gemma and two sons Sam and Tom, who, on Friday July 27, organised a Memorial Twenty20 Cricket Match, barbecue and disco.

This was to commemorate Dawn's husband and father of Gemma, Sam and Tom, David 'Dickie' Thake.

The event raised a total of £500 for Addenbrooke's Kidney Patient's Association and we can assure everyone who supported the function that all the money raised will go to help kidney patients throughout our region.

Thank you again to Dawn and her family.

Tony Weaver
Chairman
Addenbrooke's Kidney Patients' Association

Grateful Teen Queen

I WOULD like to thank everyone who voted for me in the Miss Teen Queen UK competition. I'm now one of the finalists and will be going to Alexandra Palace on August 30/31 for the final round.

I'm hoping to raise enough money to build a school out in Ghana and if I'm lucky enough I could be helping with this project.

I'm asking for donations, no matter how small, from anyone kind enough to help. With the support of Saffron