WESTMILL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Sarah Kubica E: clerk@westmillpc.org.uk **T:** 01763 272587

Planning
East Herts District Council

By email only: planning@eastherts.gov.uk

5 August 2024

Dear Planning

Re: PLANNING APPLICATION: 3/24/1255/OUT: Land South Of A507, West Of A10 Buntingford

The A10 passes through the Westmill Parish and provides Westmill residents with access to, and exit from, their village. There are two available junctions, the northern one being within 800m of Buntingford. Both junctions have become increasingly unsafe for road users, in particular our residents and their visitors, due to the volume of traffic and the current layout of the road. While traffic is already restricted to 50mph, a combination of vehicle count, speed, blind brows, inclining junctions while joining, and counterflow traffic impeding exits, have all contributed to a long history of accidents on both the northern and southern junctions to Westmill including fatalities. Traffic incidents and near misses are now occurring monthly with varying degrees of severity.

An increase in traffic volume on the A10 (inevitably involving Westmill's junctions) arising from construction and commercial vehicles and visitors would further compromise highway safety and conflict with Policy TRA2 of the East Herts District Plan (EHDP) and paragraph 115 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

In addition, vehicles that are usually A10 bound regularly divert through Westmill when the A10 is congested or roads are closed for works or accidents, causing traffic to navigate the single track narrow lanes which do not have pavements or street lighting and are popular with pedestrians and cyclists. The proposal would be contrary to TRA1 of the EHDP.

The risk of injuries and fatalities on the A10 for Westmill residents is increasing and would increase again if this planning application is approved while the A10 and other elements of infrastructure and services remain the same. If, in the event permission is granted, it should be subject to a section 106 payment dedicated to the improvement of the highway infrastructure.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Clerk Westmill Parish Council