**Response to South Norfolk Village Clusters Plan**

**Q9a** – **Do you agree with the allocation of SN0218REV, Land north of The Street, Earsham for up to 25 dwellings on an area of 1.4ha? Please explain your response**

Earsham Parish Council’s response to the Regulation 18 consultation highlighted the many issues faced in the area with flooding throughout the village, also in that response was the Parish Council’s thoughts on the SN0218 allocation – please see the previous response submitted in July 2021.

Since the last submission, when parish councillors did not have any strong views on the site, there has been a parish council election in 2023, which has meant a change of council and not all members agree with this proposed site now. The main comments for Q9a are:-

* **Infrastructure** - needs to be improved throughout the village as major flooding problems are still prevalent, so if this development is to go ahead, then there should be an undertaking that the village drainage infrastructure will be upgraded. The existing storm water sewers and foul water sewers are currently at capacity, with frequent surface water flooding at various locations throughout the village during periods of rainfall.
* **Traffic –** this will increase on The Street, where speeding is an ongoing issue, so the safety of the residents must be taken into consideration. There is a chicane arrangement for traffic in place very close to the proposed site, which would probably need to be removed, so an extension of the speed limit is vital, preferably up to the A143 junction.

The existing village roads, footpaths, signage, and signage lighting are inadequate and deteriorating. The current infrastructure for a small village such as Earsham, simply cannot cope with increased volumes of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The existing junction from The Street to the A143 is dangerous. It is unlit and lacking in direction and warning signs. Additional housing would lead to an increase in vehicle movements, with the potential for increased accident/incident rates.

* **Site proximity –** As the proposed site is adjacent to the A143 with its speeding traffic, there will be road noise and pollution for new residents on the development, so a reduction in the speed limit on the A143 for the length of the village (the village spans both sides of the A143) would be of benefit, plus as the site is on greenfield land, adequate shielding in the form of hedges and trees would lessen the negative impact on biodiversity and ecology.

**Amenities –** The village does not have any retail facilities, no shops or Post Office which means a long walk into Bungay (if there is a safe footpath), cycling or driving into the nearest town which adds to the traffic issues already mentioned. In addition, it will increase the pressure on the Doctors surgery in Bungay, which residents in Earsham must use, as well as any other medical facilities in the area, i.e. dentists.

**Q9b – If the site is allocated, do you think there are any specific requirements that should be set out in the allocation policy?**

* Some open space would lessen the impact of the density of dwellings on a small development and would be welcomed by families with children, especially if there was a small play area.
* Adequate footpath from the proposed development onto The Street would be necessary.
* Adequate natural screening from the A143.
* The style of dwellings to be sympathetic to the surroundings and in keeping with a rural village.

Earsham Parish Council – 4th February 2024