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Dear Sir/Madam,

**Planning Application 7/2021/5448 - letter of objection to the current planning application**

I write on behalf of SENS – [Sustainability & Energy Network in Staveley](http://www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk/) – which was established 12 years ago. Since then we have worked across a number of projects including home energy, travel and transport, and food. Around 100 people receive our monthly newsletter, and we are part of the Cumbria Sustainability Network linking with sustainability groups across Cumbria.

We are particularly concerned about the impact of this development on Staveley in the context of the climate emergency.

You will be aware that the Parish Council has, for several years, expressed concerns that the capacity to safely dispose of sewage and wastewater is increasingly frequently exceeded. When it rains even moderately heavily, this results in raw sewage spilling on to roads and footways in the centre of the village leaving traffic no alternative but to drive through thus spreading the sewage more widely.

Over the last few years the local community has kept a record of each incident. This demonstrates that there have been a higher number of incidents than officially recorded. The numbers continue to increase year on year.

This puts both residents and visitors at risk of a range of infections, especially if they are unaware of the potential problem. Some of these infections may be relatively mild, but in some instances they can be much more severe eg E coli or Giardia.

At the same time the raw sewage causes wider damage through local water courses, impacting significantly on wildlife and biodiversity.

United Utilities recognises that there are capacity problems within Staveley. However, they assert that it would be too expensive to increase the capacity of the system by replacing the pipework to prevent overspill. They have even rejected a much cheaper proposal to add a second drainage pipe to take the pressure off the current system.

Until the capacity to safely manage sewage and wastewater is increased, it would seem at best illogical and at worst hazardous to add an additional 25 houses. The risks are compounded by the fact that the development is immediately above the area of Staveley where the overspill already happens, and would use the same infrastructure.

We wish to make one further comment. It seems very surprising that the developer has apparently ignored the need to take account of the climate emergency when designing and building new homes. As a minimum this should include effective insulation and solar panels, and should not include gas boilers.

We trust that our comments will be taken into account when this application is considered.

Kind regards,

Isobel Stoddart

Isobel Stoddart

Chair

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