Neighbour Comments  19/7/2017
Mr Kay 2 Brenda Gautrey Way CB24 8XW
Planning applications S/2413/17/OL
Land off Rampton road Cottenham

I am writing as a resident of Cottenham since 1963, and since this date I have witnessed great changes to our village.

Most of the new building in the village has been to fill in the gaps in the centre of Cottenham and to add modest developments on the edge. This has meant an increase in the population, without physically enlarging the village to any serious extent.

I am seriously concerned about the proposed plans for 200 residential dwellings and up to 70 apartments with care, off Rampton Road. These plans are environmentally unacceptable. They would destroy valuable agricultural land, would be detrimental to wildlife and would change the aspect of the village. They would be a first step towards joining the villages of Rampton and Cottenham, thus endangering the identity of both villages.

It would also seem that the problem of flooding on this low-lying land has not been treated seriously.

Socially a development of this size would be a disaster for the village and its inhabitants, both old and new. It would be impossible for the present Pre-schools and Primary School [one of the largest in the county] to cope with the arrival of more families. The Village College would also suffer from an increase of students.

Village amenities, above all the medical facilities, are already under great stress. The proposed site is at some distance from the centre of the village and it would be difficult for those living there, particularly elderly people, to get to the shops. Parking in the village centre is very limited, and as Cottenham is a linear village, the shops are inevitably some distance from each other.

The increase in traffic is unthinkable. Already the roads are crowded in the mornings and early evenings, and cycling on some roads is perilous. Occupants of houses on the proposed new site would, in all probability, use the Oakington Road to drive to the A14 and the M11. This is a narrow road and at present has no facility for cycles. The present bus service to Cambridge is slow and at present does not serve Rampton Road.

The proposal to enlarge the roundabout on the Rampton Road/Oakington Road junction would seem to have an impact on the near-by Alms Houses, which are listed buildings. The plans to introduce cycle paths on the Rampton Road appear confused..
I am aware of the need for more affordable housing in the county, but I strongly feel that the present proposals are in the wrong place.

I therefore strongly oppose the plans put forward in this document