

County Councillors Report September 2026.

Outline Planning Application 25/01213/OUT- Land off Sacheverell Way. Groby. 180 Dwellings.

This application is now out for consultation. I am even more concerned after the recent planning decisions by the planning Committee at Hinckley and Bosworth regarding the increased traffic impact of this application on Sacheverell Way, Groby. After the ruling Liberal Democrat Planning Committee destroyed the Burroughs by passing a further 470 houses in Ratby. Currently there are over 900 houses passed and waiting to be developed in Ratby on top of the 400 passed and built since 2019. The Local infrastructure is struggling now in a morning with traffic queuing back to Ratby.

Green Wedge.

This application lies within the green wedge protection area. In 2015 the Appeal Inspector's main reason for dismissing an appeal by the same developer against the refusal of planning permission to build houses next to Groby cemetery, a site that was on the edge of the Green Wedge on the north side of Sacheverell Way and with the access onto Ratby Road, not Sacheverell Way, was for the importance of protecting the strategic Rothley Brook Green Wedge, clear justification provided in HBBC's own Green Wedge Review that identifies the site as not suitable for development.

Highway Reasons Some 20 years ago there were 2 pre-planning enquires for a new access direct onto Sacheverell Way; (1) Direct access onto Sacheverell Way for a club house proposed to be built on Stamford Park, (2) Direct access onto Sacheverell Way for a proposed Leisure Centre to be built by Bloor on the site of the current application.

In both cases the response of the LHA was that it could not support any application for a further access onto Sacheverell Way, as it believed this could lead to significant highway dangers.

So, what has changed in the last 20 years? (i) Traffic levels have more than doubled, (ii) Approval has recently been given for another 695 new homes in Ratby with another 100+ houses still in construction, with the majority of vehicle movements from these 800 houses very likely to use Sacheverell Way as their preferred route, (iii) The downloaded MVAS data provided by Groby Parish Council not only illustrates the current high level of vehicle movements but the significant number exceeding the speed limit, other than at peak times, (iv) Due to the current level of vehicle movements, there is significant levels of congestion from vehicles queuing to join the A50, often as far back as the 2nd proposed access road for this application. How can this be sustainable with the additional vehicle movements of another 800 houses being built in Ratby? I have written to Highways raising my concerns.

Social & Environmental - Health & Wellbeing Concerns, By allowing homes to be built in this location when in all reasonable probability the health of residents of these homes, especially children would almost constantly be exposed to air and noise pollution - air pollution concentrated by the contours surrounding the very busy A46 ring Road and noise pollution amplified by those contours, those living in the vicinity even though elevated from this "valley" will testify that the road noise can be truly deafening - something that could possibly have a detrimental effect on the hearing development of young children. Yet, no credible authenticated detailed noise or air pollution reports have been provided to the planning authority even though the Borough Council has a Statutory Duty for ensuring public safety? Under the circumstances and bearing in mind the legal responsibility of HBBC (also the planning authority) for public safety how can we be certain that this proposed development will provide a healthy environment for people to live in.

Infrastructure - Facilities in Groby are already stretched to the limit with access to local services severely limited by the lack of parking in the village centre, I am informed that there is no room for expansion at the Groby Surgery and no likelihood of a provider or full funding being found for a new surgery on this development. Places at the only secondary school serving Groby, Ratby and Glenfield, will be stretched over capacity as a consequence of all the new development agreed in Ratby and now that the bus route serving Ratby and this part of Groby has been reduced to an hourly frequency, it is unlikely to provide the capacity required to service projected demand from all these new homes, which will almost certainly increase the need for the number of car journeys. This application is out for consultation up to the 9th September. Email:

Planning@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

However, You can submit objections or support up to the date of the planning committee meeting which is likely to be in November 2026.

The Burrough's. Ratby. 470 Houses Planning Application Passed.

The Burroughs is the Jewel in the crown of the beautiful Countryside in the village of Ratby it is used by walkers and horse riders from around the County. This is in the heart of Countryside outside the settlement boundary of the village. Clearly in conflict with and against policy **DM4 of Site Allocations & Development Management Policies DPD.**

This is rich beautiful countryside with ridge and furrow. The site is within the National Forest.

However, it made no difference, not even a massive 2500 letters of objections received. Or both myself and other ward councillors and residents speaking against this application. Unfortunately, the Liberal Democrats who have the majority on the planning committee passed the application.

This will have a major impact on the traffic in Ratby and Groby especially those choosing to use Sacheverell Way, Groby to access the A46 and A50 which already backs up towards Ratby in the mornings.

It's never too soon to prepare for flooding

A message from the Flood Team.

Heavy Rainfall in dry ground can increase the risk of flooding. Be prepared. People across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) are being urged to prepare for the possibility of flooding with thunderstorms and heavy rain forecast for later this week.

Months of little or no rain have left the ground extremely hard, increasing the risk of surface water flooding which can happen fast and be hard to predict, says the Local Resilience Forum (LRF).

As well as localised flooding, risks include difficult driving conditions, disruption to power and other utilities, and a risk to life from fast-flowing flood water.

To reduce the risk of flooding after a record-breaking summer of hot, dry weather, people are advised to:

Know their flood risk and sign up for free flood alerts and warnings

Pack a 'grab bag' of essential items, like medicines, bottled water and insurance documents, in case you need to stay put or leave your home in a hurry

Check in on relatives and neighbours, particularly those who may find it harder to cope

Check gutters, drains and downpipes, and clear leaves and debris

Have an emergency plan and keep it handy – include things like emergency phone numbers

Check out property flood resilience measures

Find local flood resilience activities, such as your local flood warden scheme, or set one up!

Never enter flood water. In an emergency, call 999

“While the sun is shining, it's easy to forget about the risk of flooding – but, after a long dry spell, rainwater can run off dry ground and cause localised flooding which can have devastating impacts. That's why it's so important to be prepared.

“By taking action to prepare for flooding – like packing a 'grab bag' or checking in with vulnerable neighbours - people are actually making themselves and their communities better prepared for other risks, too.”

WARNING

WhatsApp Gold scam and Martinelli

The WhatsApp Gold and Martinelli scam is a common hoax which regularly recirculates. The scam installs malware on your phone.

It begins with a WhatsApp message promoting a sham version of the messaging service called 'WhatsApp Gold,' which has special features that can be unlocked by clicking a link.

This link will lead to malware being downloaded to your device.

Another version of this scam features a message which warns of a video called 'Martinelli' installing malware to your device if opened. However, there is no evidence that this video exists.

You can report a WhatsApp message by selecting it in your conversation and tapping 'report'.

To report the sender on WhatsApp, open up the chat, tap on the sender's contact details and select 'block and report'.

Most common WhatsApp scams

Whether it's the 'Hi Mum and Dad' scam, fake job offers or even an account takeover scam, WhatsApp is used by opportunistic scammers.

WhatsApp allows users to message friends and family all over the world for free. It also enables people to call contacts and use video, audio and images in messages.

These features are sometimes exploited by fraudsters who impersonate brands, friends and family members in convincing scam messages in an attempt to con you out of your money.

If you haven't done so already, add an extra layer of security to your WhatsApp by setting up [two-step verification \(2SV\)](#). You can do this by:

1. Opening WhatsApp settings. Tapping 'account' > 'two-step verification' > turning on or setting up 'PIN.'
2. Then choose and enter a six-digit PIN and confirm it. You can provide an email address to reset two-step verification or choose to skip this.
3. Tap 'next' > confirm the email address > tap 'save' or 'done.'

Finally, I hope you have all had a lovely summer and a break. I would like to thank you all for your continued support and remind you that should you need my help or advice, I always pride myself on making myself available to residents. Remember I am only a phone call or email away.

Ozzy O'shea.

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