

Some suggestions regarding the proposed Preston Fields development

Arising from the meeting on 23 January 2017, the Faversham Future Forum (FFF) would like to see the developer recognising three fundamental design principles in connection with the proposed development at Preston Fields.

First, the estate should be permeable, with through routes for vehicles and pedestrians that offer potential links to future developments bordering Preston Fields to the south together with the existing fabric to the east and west. It should not be a closed bubble or ghetto, which weakens the continuity of the network and damages social interaction across different areas of the town.

Second, the current traffic congestion and pollution along the A2 already acts as a barrier severing neighbourhoods on either side. The scheme should not add to the problem, but rather encourage walking, cycling and bus use rather than car use, and promote pedestrian and cycle movement at crossing points that are safe, welcoming, and easy to use.

Third, the development should integrate with existing access ways from the A2 to reduce the number of potential turning movements. There is one particular access that appears not to be recognised in the current plan.

Bearing these in mind, the FFF would like to see

1. Vehicular and pedestrian throughways with access to and from the A2, the A251, and Salters Lane to allow movement through the development and promote continuity of future developments neighbouring Preston Fields.
2. A footpath along the south side of the A2 to allow schoolchildren to walk to Abbey School from the development.
3. A new signalled pedestrian crossing over the A2.
4. Road alignment within the estate that permits the development of a bus route that could be extended to future developments bordering Preston Fields.
5. Merging of the access point on the A2 with the existing access way to the business site immediately to the east.
6. Finally, the FFF would like to see the playground re-sited towards the centre of the development where it is more accessible to mothers with young children, and being overlooked by neighbouring dwellings, more secure and less likely to attract vandalism.