



PRESS RELEASE

20,000 Objections: Chelmsford's Local Plan Sparks Massive Public Outcry Against Hammonds Farm Housing and Industrial Expansion

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 28 April 2025

The *No to Hammonds Farm Working Group* is a **coalition of Councillors from Boreham, Sandon, Danbury, and Little Baddow Parish Councils and concerned residents** who refuse to sit idly by while the Chelmer Valley is transformed into an urban sprawl.

Our diverse group is united by a shared commitment to **preserving the region's natural beauty, tranquillity, and heritage for future generations.**

Chelmsford City Council's Draft Local Plan for (which is intended to guide development through to 2041) proposes allocating **Hammonds Farm (Strategic Growth Site 16a)** for over **3,000 new houses** and **500,000 sq ft of employment land**, risking irreversible harm to the rural landscape, wildlife habitats, and the historic character of the Chelmer Valley.

In addition, **Pigeon Investment Management Ltd** has submitted a separate proposal for **Strategic Growth Site 16b**, proposing a further **500,000 sq ft of industrial estate** adjacent to Hammonds Farm.

Together, these developments would impose **over one million square feet** of industrial and employment space alongside thousands of new homes.

Across three public consultations — **Issues & Options, Regulation 18, and Regulation 19** — **nearly 20,000 objections** have been submitted, making this one of the **largest public planning responses in the UK.**

"This overwhelming opposition reflects a deep and abiding concern for the future of Chelmsford's countryside. Communities across the Chelmer Valley are standing together to say: Enough is enough."



Key Campaign Achievements

- **3,000+ objections** submitted at Issues & Options stage.
 - **10,000+ objections** during Regulation 18 consultation.
 - **Almost 6,000 objections** during Regulation 19 consultation — despite significant barriers.
 - **Detailed legal objections** highlighting environmental, flood risk, heritage, and transport flaws.
 - **Coalition formed** by Parish Councils and residents.
 - **Fundraising success** through GoFundMe campaign.
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Overcoming Consultation Barriers

The Regulation 19 consultation imposed highly restrictive criteria, requiring technical, formal objections to be considered “valid.”

Chelmsford City Council’s consultation portal was widely criticised as **difficult to access and user-unfriendly**, creating significant barriers for ordinary residents.

To overcome this, the *No to Hammonds Farm Working Group* developed **bespoke technology solutions**, providing easy-to-use submission systems, detailed guidance, and alternative routes — ensuring that **thousands of formal objections** were successfully registered.

Fighting Back Through Fundraising: GoFundMe Success

Recognising the need for specialist legal support, the Working Group launched a **GoFundMe campaign** to finance expert representation at the forthcoming Examination in Public.

Thanks to widespread community generosity, we have **successfully raised almost £32,000 of our £55,000 target**, demonstrating the strength of public feeling and commitment to preserving our countryside.

Donations remain open as the fight continues.

Support the campaign here:

👉 <https://www.gofundme.com/f/No-To-Hammonds-Farm>



Campaign Website: Trusted Information Source

The *No to Hammonds Farm* website provides evidence-based information, legal analysis, and campaign news, including the **full Truth Behind the Plan series** — exposing flaws in the Local Plan proposals.

Explore more at: 🖱️ <https://notohammondsfarm.co.uk>

Call for Further Media Attention

We invite journalists to explore this extraordinary grassroots effort:

- Interviews available with Councillors, campaign leaders, and residents.
- Full access to expert reports, objection documents, and case studies.
- Site visits available to experience the threatened landscape firsthand.

This campaign represents a **nationally significant grassroots challenge** to unsustainable planning decisions and creeping industrialisation.

Press Contact

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Notes for Editors

- *Strategic Growth Site 16a proposes 3,000+ homes and 500,000 sq ft of employment land.*
- *Strategic Growth Site 16b proposes a further 500,000 sq ft industrial estate.*
- *The proposals would severely impact historic landscapes, floodplains, biodiversity corridors, and existing village communities.*
- *The Local Plan is at Regulation 19 stage and due to proceed to Examination in Public.*