

Hundreds of new homes agreed as other site in same town rejected

Plans for hundreds of homes in a Norfolk town have been agreed, while a scheme to develop a site in the same area was rejected.

An application to build 216 houses off Swanton Road in Dereham was granted planning permission by councillors on Monday.

But at the same meeting, a vision for 255 homes off Yaxham Road and Dumpling Green was rejected over fears about traffic.

A meeting of Breckland Council's planning committee on Monday debated the impact on the town's traffic issues.

Independent councillor Roger Atterwill warned that if the homes were built, the town could see traffic "queuing on the A47".

While Tony Needham, Dereham Town Council clerk, said: "The town council believes the impact of the development will be severe

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and so does our barrister."

Chris Couves, from Yaxham Parish Council, said: "Yaxham already has a high level of traffic movement coming from Dereham.

"The B1135 is already being used as a rat run to join the A47."

However, Conservative councillor Marian Chapman-Allen said: "Hopkins Homes have an excellent reputation. They provide good quality properties."

The application was voted down by seven votes to four.

Simon Bryan, development director of Hopkins Homes, said: "We are very disappointed that our proposals were not approved.

"We have since completed



Councillor Roger Atterwill

Picture: MATT US

additional surveys, including a comprehensive traffic assessment, and no objections to the plans were received from Norfolk county council, the highways agency or other statutory bodies."

Meanwhile, plans for the 216 homes were approved – despite fears over the consequences the development could have on the lives of people living nearby.

In September, Dereham town council sent a legal letter to Breckland Council claiming the assessment of the plan's impact

on Dereham's traffic issues was "defective" and "flawed".

At the meeting on Monday, M Needham said: "The people who are reassuring you that you don't need to worry and everything will be fine won't have to live with the consequences of the decisions you make today – the people in Dereham will."

But Liz Poole, from Norfolk county council, said: "The view of the highways authority is that there will not be a severe impact."

The plans were approved by seven votes to four.

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