

## Local Road Rat Runs



The development is likely to increase the use of local roads as rat-runs, diverting additional traffic onto narrow, unsuitable lanes in an attempt to avoid congestion on the A22. These roads were not designed to accommodate high traffic volumes and already experience issues with speeding, conflict between vehicles, and limited passing opportunities. Increased rat-running would heighten safety risks for pedestrians, cyclists, and vulnerable road users, while also accelerating wear and deterioration of the road surface and verges. The cumulative impact on these constrained routes has not been assessed or mitigated within the application, contrary to the NPPF requirement to ensure safe and suitable access for all users.

### **Refined Highways Objection: Rat-Running, Unsuitable Local Roads & Cumulative Safety Impacts:**

*The development is likely to increase the use of local roads as rat-runs, diverting additional traffic onto narrow, unsuitable lanes as drivers attempt to avoid congestion on the A22. These routes were never designed to accommodate high traffic volumes and already experience issues with speeding, vehicle conflict, and limited passing opportunities. Any increase in through-traffic would heighten safety risks for pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users, while also accelerating deterioration of the road surface, verges, and drainage infrastructure.*

*The cumulative impact on these constrained local roads has not been assessed or mitigated within the application. No evidence has been provided to demonstrate that these routes can safely accommodate additional traffic or that appropriate measures—such as traffic-calming, access restrictions, or junction improvements—have been considered. In the absence of such assessment, the proposal fails to meet the NPPF requirement to ensure safe and suitable*

## Local Road Rat Runs

*access for all users and to avoid development that results in severe residual cumulative impacts.*