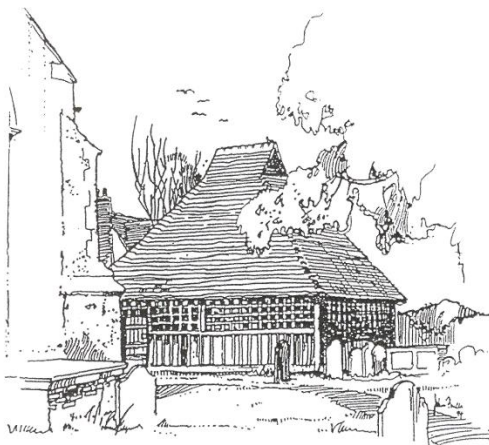


## *East Bergholt Society*



### *Statement for Planning Committee*

If this Council had a policy which truly protected and celebrated the unique landscape of the Dedham Vale AONB and the heritage of Gainsborough and Constable I believe I would not be standing here today attempting to do in 3 minutes what two years and scores of letters and emails have failed to do.

The Judicial Review brought by East Bergholt Parish Council was won and costs were awarded against Babergh. Costs which, we as ratepayers, have borne. It would not have been necessary to resort to a Judicial Review if Babergh Officers and Councillors had not ignored our advice and, ultimately, our protests.

We would much prefer to work with Babergh to deliver the housing identified in our Neighbourhood Plan than having to challenge in the courts. This is why the East Bergholt Society is giving its full support to

the East Bergholt Community Housing trust in its drive to build these houses.

In the case of Moores Lane (B/15/00673), the proposed light industrial units blight the tourist gateway into Constable Country and the village of his birth. Approving this application would contravene Babergh's own policy CS3 in addition to most of the policies in the East Bergholt Neighbourhood Plan.

No significant changes have been made to application Gatton House (B/15/01678) to address the High Court Judge's ruling as to why the previous approval of this application was illegal.

The application Heath Road (B/16/01092) should be rejected for the same reason as the previous two applications. This site borders the AONB and, furthermore, is the location on one of Constable's drawings.

Your officers advised you wrongly last year. Are you prepared to let them do so again and bear yet more legal costs?

As members of the Planning Committee you are the custodians of a unique landscape. At the heart of "Constable Country" East Bergholt is a site of historic and artistic importance. This is a landscape you should be cherishing, enhancing and protecting for now and for future

generations. Once built on, it is lost for ever. Are you really prepared to deface this nationally and internationally known and loved landscape? Development must be undertaken with sensitivity and care.

Land has been made available to the East Bergholt Community Housing trust and plans are progressing apace to build the number and kind of houses wanted by the Government and needed by East Bergholt and Babergh.

With this housing trust promising to actually deliver houses, to approve these applications would be a scandal. All three should be refused.

C.L. Ireland, Chair East Bergholt Society