Comment for planning application WSCC/011/21

Application number Name

WSCC/011/21

David Chalk

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Type of Comment Comments

Objection

The Government White Paper "Planning for the Future" published 6 August 2020 at page 52 includes tellingly a section headed "A FAST-TRACK FOR BEAUTY". In part it seeks to incentivise and accelerate high quality development which reflects local character and preferences. Whilst acknowledging the need for private investment and development this firmly values the importance of the visual environment. There can be no doubt that human welfare is enhanced by beauty and adversely affected by its lack. A local authority has responsibility for enhancing the lives of its community and the planning process is a crucial tool for achieving that end. Taking account of the environmental impact in terms of beauty, traffic volume, noise and impact on local housing the balance in terms of enhancing lives is catastrophically negative. The White Paper also recognises that the planning system is unpredictable, too difficult to engage with or understand, and favours the biggest players in the market who are best able to negotiate and navigate through the process. The proposed development is clearly backed by huge resources which resonates strongly with that statement in the White Paper. As a whole the proposal clearly aims at profit and pays lip service to other factors only to the extent thought necessary to placate the planning system, hence the resubmission of a proposal with changes that entirely fail to address the concerns expressed by so many. The resubmission must be seen for the cynical ploy which it undoubtedly and expectedly is. In terms of scale alone this proposed development is so overwhelming as to beggar belief and its disproportion in relation to the surrounding environment is astonishing. The visual impact will be over-bearing and detrimental over an enormous radius dominating the landscape on the edge of a National Park. The insensitivity of the proposal speaks volumes. The proposed use is not suitable for the area, its appearance and size is wholly out of character and keeping with its neighbours and the surrounding area, noise and disturbance will increase over a large area in particular due to heavy vehicle movements which will seriously impact roads and the safety of road users, the detriment to the landscape will be significant and visible over an enormous radius and finally the proposal is in conflict with current and future planning policy at a national level. Public amenity i.e., people's reasonable expectations for enjoyment of their surroundings is as much the responsibility of the planning authority as the overall achievement of the Waste Local Plan. The Waste Local Plan includes the strategic objective to protect and, where possible, enhance the health and amenity of residents, businesses, and visitors. The current proposal is an overwhelming obstacle to achieving and recognising that objective.

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Attachments