Comment for planning application WSCC/030/21

Application number Name

Address

Comments

WSCC/030/21

Lucy Bartley

COLDHARBOUR FARM, FITTLEWORTH ROAD, FITTLEWORTH ROAD, BILLINGSHURST, RH14 0EX

Type of Obje

Objection

I wish to object to this most damaging and unnecessary planning application for the commercial clay extraction and waste development site in Pallinghurst Woods for the following reasons:

Goes against policy at both national and local level - The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), CDC Local Plan and the Loxwood Neighbourhood Plan;

There is already enough clay in the area to satisfy demand. 3 brickmaking sites in the area have 25 years supply of clay and another has 24 years supply;

The extraction of clay non-adjacent to brickworks makes it uneconomic and environmentally unsound;

There are already sufficient facilities for waste construction materials in the area. West Sussex already has 5 construction material recycling facilities (CMRF). The WSCC Monitoring Report 2019/20 states that "There is currently adequate capacity for recycling C&D waste within West Sussex.".

It would have a negative impact on the biodiversity of not only Pallinghurst Woods itself but also the nearby internationally designated wildlife sites - The Mens SAC and Ebernoe Common SAC and Arun Valley SPA/SAC and Ramsar. The incredibly rare Barbastelle bats, on the Red List of Threatened Species, which are present on this site are a qualifying feature of the nearby SAC's meaning that they are 'functionally linked'. As The Mens SAC is only 6.5km and Ebernoe Common SAC 7.95km, this development would fall within their "wider conservation area". The removal of parts of woodland, the addition of road infrastructure and also light, noise and dust pollution would most likely have a significant negative impact as it would be fragmenting the bats flightlines and foraging. Furthermore, the increase in demand for water that this proposed development would bring could also have a significant negative impact on the aquatic species that the Arun Valley SPA/SAC and Ramsar is designated;

A 15,000 sq ft building situated within unspoilt woodland, some of which is designated as ancient, along with the ancillary building and quarrying operation will have a serious and lasting visual impact upon the landscape which has no other structures;

The movement of HGV's, 42 a day, along Loxwood Road, a narrow country lane, just 5.1 metres wide, at its narrowest point, poses a very real threat to the safety of other road users;

People simply do not want this development. Over 5,000 people have signed the petition objecting to this development.

The damage that this development would cause would simply outweigh any benefit that it would deliver. This damage would be irreversible and will be felt for at least a generation. I would urge you to take all of the above into consideration when presiding over this application.

Received

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Attachments