

Comment for planning application WSCC/030/21

Application number	<input type="text" value="WSCC/030/21"/>
Name	<input type="text" value="Debbie Donovan"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="ARUNDENE, POND CLOSE, POND CLOSE, BILLINGSHURST, RH14 0SH"/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Objection"/>
Comments	<p>SEVERE ADVERSE IMPACT ON WILDLIFE.</p> <p>The proposed development would be on a Greenfield site. National policy states that waste sites should be sited in built-up areas or brownfield sites. This site is unsuitable for the proposed development.</p> <p>The proposed development supporting evidence describes way of reintroducing new wildlife measures as the project goes on, in order to "increase the biodiversity of the site". This is unacceptable. The biodiversity that is already there needs to be protected.</p> <p>This site is unsuitable for the proposed development due to specific threats to endangered and protected species identified on the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">No account has been taken of the active badger sett located at the What Three Words address ///Pizzaria.resolves.lamenting which is near the lay-by, parking and wheel-wash area.Four threatened species of bats have been identified on the site, including the Barbastelle Bat which is rare in Sussex and is an International European Protected Species.This year we have had Red Kites over Spy Lane which I have seen soar over to Pallingshurst Woods. I have lived here for 9 years and it's the first time I have seen them. Following a successful conservation programme, bringing them back from near extinction, Red Kites are listed under Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act. Pallingshurst Woodland is the right environment for them to nest in. The proposed development with its tree felling, noisy works and HGVs will scare Red Kites off if they are already nesting in the woods, or will prevent them from settling in if they are scoping the area for potential nesting sites. <p>SEVERE ADVERSE IMPACT ON ROAD SAFETY.</p> <p>The road from Loxwood to Bucks Green is very popular with cyclists, horse riders and walkers. I am very concerned about the effect that this development would have on road safety. The road itself is treacherous - it is narrow, down to 5.1m at its narrowest point, there are many blind bends - and there are often cyclists or horses just round a corner. Having HGVs trundling down this road will not be safe. Also the amount of mud generated and brought onto this road will further increase danger to cyclists and the potential for Road Traffic Accidents. There have been several fatalities on the local roads in recent years. Allowing HGVs to travel this route will greatly increase the danger to cyclists, horses and walkers. The safety effect on all other road users with this proposed development has not been fully assessed.</p> <p>There is a severe risk to road user's safety from HGVs turning onto the A281 at Bucks Green. There was a fatal accident just along from here last year when a cyclist was killed by a lorry, whilst crossing the A281 on the Downs Link; this area is well known locally as a danger area for road users.</p> <p>SEVERE ADVERSE IMPACT ON CHARACTER OF THE AREA.</p> <p>Many new houses have been built in Loxwood, and many more are planned. The proposed development will have an adverse effect on the character of this area, and is likely to have a knock-on effect to house prices and people's willingness to move here. The noise, dust, visual impact and smell of the development would completely change the character of this area. It is an unsuitable site for the proposed development.</p> <p>SEVERE ADVERSE IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH BENEFITS.</p> <p>As a Doctor working on the frontline of the Pandemic I have made extensive use of the footpaths through these woodlands for exercise and relaxation. I have personally benefitted from time spent in the tranquillity and peace of the woodland. I have seen a huge rise in my patient's mental health problems through the pandemic which the NHS is not adequately able to address. This is a growing problem and it's not going away. As a Doctor I advise my patients to spend time outdoors, in green spaces, to help their mental wellbeing. It is well recognised that time spent outdoors in green spaces is good for both mental and physical health. It is VITAL for our local community that this woodland and its surrounds are protected for our community's health. Many members of our community turned to these woodlands and walking routes in the pandemic to get physical exercise during lockdown, and to reap the mental health benefits. These health solutions are still very much in demand. From a Public Health viewpoint, we cannot afford to lose the tranquillity of this amenity.</p>

The woodland is well-used by runners and hikers, young families, dog walkers, and local people of all generations. It is quiet, peaceful, safe and calming. All this would change if the proposed development were to go ahead. The proposed development would have a severe impact upon the enjoyment of these walking routes for all users, to the point our community would have to drive to alternative woodlands, for example Sidney Woods in Alfold, to find an alternative place to visit. This would cause a further increase road traffic, resulting in increased carbon emissions and an adverse environmental impact.

Received

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Attachments