Comment for planning application WSCC/046/23

Application number Name WSCC/046/23

David Carpenter

Address

OLD STORE COTTAGE, BILLINGSHURST, RH14 9EB

Type of Comment Comments

Objection

With regard to the applicant's desire to extend their permission for a further 2 years, I object most strongly. The primary reason for my objection is related to the increase in surface water run-off that the site is contributing to the natural catchment area.

This site, some 6000 sq. metres in area, was constructed with an impermeable membrane under the top surface. While drilling operations were under way surface water was, according to the permission granted, collected and tanked off site for approved disposal.

Since operations have ceased and the site cleared of equipment this has not been happening. Therefore the substantial area of the site is now adding to the surface water run-off that the local watercourses in the catchment area must cope with.

Despite the response to this application by the County Council's Lead Local Flood Authority Flood Risk Management Team, submitted 08/01/24, stating they have no objection on the grounds that the site has no impact on surface water flood risk, I can attest to the fact that Broadford Bridge has been suffering significant flooding events for a lot more than 2 years.

In fact, I notified the LLFA myself in January 2023 regarding the increase in number and severity of flood events at Broadford Bridge. The application site is within the catchment area of the watercourse and culvert that is causing the flooding to dwellings at Broadford Bridge. For the LLFA to state that an additional 6000 sq. metre surface area does not contribute to an increase in surface water run off is flawed at best, and in the worst case scenario could be considered negligent.

The Flood Risk Management Team are aware of the ongoing flooding issues at Broadford Bridge. I have been corresponding with the LLFA for the last year on this matter, so their response to this application is somewhat disingenuous.

Broadford Bridge has been suffering an increasing number of serious flooding events in the last few years. The increase in number of flooding events has happened during the same period that the site has been in the retention and restoration phase, and is I believe, unlikely to be coincidental.

Permission for a further two years extension should not be granted. This application is nothing more than a cynical attempt on the part of the company to defer the costs involved with restoring the site to it's original state. Local residents need and deserve to have some certainty with regards to this situation.

Attached is an image of a recent flooding event in December 2023 at Broadford Bridge where water entered dwellings.

Received

16/01/2024 12:56:47

Attachments The following files have been uploaded:

2023 1212 Broadford Bridge Flooding WSCC 046 23.pdf

