

PLANNING REF : 242067  
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Salix  
: Tape Lane, Hurst Reading, Berkshire  
: RG10 0DP  
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Naomi Elizabeth Bassett  
DATE SUBMITTED : 17/09/2024

COMMENTS:

This application is for a green field site outside the Planning Envelope. While Hurst has absorbed many recent new homes by careful infilling it does not need a further 99 houses on this sensitive location. It is a thriving rural community living happily within the constraints of its position and few amenities. Further development in these numbers would jeopardise this. The tempting offer of 50% 'affordable housing' may not be affordable to many in this affluent area. The Primary School is at full capacity with no facilities for expansion. Nearby secondary schools are working under pressure while large housing developments in Twyford may well put their schools out of reach for Hurst children. Practically all working adults have a job outside the village either driving to work or taking the train from Twyford. However, the station car park is generally full by 7am on weekdays. Concomitantly a row of cars (up to 10) has recently been parked all day on weekdays some 500m from the station just beyond where the no-parking lines stop. The proposed new minibus to Twyford and Wargrave Piggott is unlikely to solve this problem with parents likely to choose to drive rather than pay the fare. Despite the minibuses and proposed altered bus services residents will still need their cars for any visit to the doctors' surgery - already stretched to breaking point with appointments few and far between - or to a supermarket as the village shop is only a top-up. Improved walking and cycling provision will not meet the needs of a sick patient or a supermarket trolley.

The green swathe proposed to separate the 99 houses will not compensate for the loss of the whole field which at present supports wild animals, birds and insect life. The loss of ancient hedgerow in Tape Lane for access points is another negative issue. In conclusion Hurst is an unsustainable village. Poor infrastructure and limited amenities mean that inhabitants are practically dependent on their cars in an area with the highest car usage in the country. A further 99 houses would only increase this problem. The application should be refused.