

PLANNING REF : 252782
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 11 The Hawthorns
: Charvil, Berkshire
: RG10 9TS
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Janice Dixon
DATE SUBMITTED : 02/12/2025

COMMENTS:

To: Wokingham Borough Council - Planning Department
Application Reference: 252782
Proposal: Fuel Storage and Distribution Facility, Charvil, Berkshire

Subject: Formal Objection to Planning Application 252782 - Speedy Fuels Depot, Charvil

I am writing to formally object to the above planning application for the proposed fuel storage and distribution facility in Charvil, Berkshire.

1. Environmental Risks

- The proposed depot would store approximately 1 million litres of oil just yards from the River Loddon and Charvil Country Park.
- Any spill or leak could cause catastrophic contamination of local watercourses and irreparable harm to protected habitats and biodiversity.
- The application shows no significant improvement in containment measures compared to the previously withdrawn proposal.

2. Traffic & Road Safety

- The plan involves 160 heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movements per week on a narrow rural road.
- Local infrastructure is not designed to accommodate this level of industrial traffic.
- Increased risk of accidents, congestion, and road damage is inevitable.
- Turning in/out of the site is dangerous and the container lorries delivering to adjacent site already block the road and create significant hazard

3. Public Safety

- Large-scale oil storage so close to homes and a nature reserve poses unacceptable risks of fire, explosion, or toxic release.
- Emergency services in the area are unlikely to have the capacity to respond effectively to a depot fire of this magnitude.
- Fire fighting run off would compound any spillage directly into the watercourse

4. Planning Policy Conflicts

- The proposal is fundamentally incompatible with the rural character of Charvil.
- It conflicts with Wokingham Borough Council's environmental and sustainability objectives, as well as national policy commitments to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Approving this application would undermine local development plans and set a dangerous precedent for industrial-scale fuel storage in semi-rural areas.

5. Community Impact

- The depot would cause noise, air pollution, and visual intrusion, negatively affecting residents' quality of life.
- Local amenity would be harmed.
- Strong community opposition has already been demonstrated, with widespread objections to the previous application.

Conclusion

This proposal represents an unacceptable risk to the environment, public safety, and community wellbeing. It fails to address the concerns that led to the withdrawal of the earlier application and offers no meaningful improvements in risk management or containment.

I therefore urge Wokingham Borough Council to refuse planning permission for application 252782.

Yours faithfully,
Janice Dixon