

PLANNING REF : 261059
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 2
: Aggisters Lane, Barkham, Berkshire
: RG41 4DN
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Marek Poczatek
DATE SUBMITTED : 07/06/2026

COMMENTS:

We moved to Barkham not long ago because of its semi-rural character, peaceful environment, and strong sense of community. Unfortunately, since moving here, several large-scale development proposals have been approved between Barkham and Wokingham, and further applications continue to be submitted. It appears that many of these developments do not take sufficient account of the existing character of the area. One of the current planning applications includes blocks of flats, which are completely out of keeping with the surrounding landscape and the predominantly low-density residential nature of Barkham. The local infrastructure is already under significant strain. Roads are in poor condition, and frequent road closures have made everyday travel increasingly difficult for residents. Traffic congestion has noticeably worsened, and additional large-scale developments will only exacerbate these issues. The proposed development of approximately 660 new homes would place even greater pressure on local roads, schools, healthcare services, and other community facilities. Without substantial infrastructure improvements delivered in advance, this level of development risks having a significant negative impact on the quality of life of existing residents. Furthermore, the continued expansion of large housing estates threatens the very character that makes Barkham an attractive place to live. The loss of green spaces, increased urbanisation, and inappropriate building types could permanently alter the area's identity.

I am not opposed to all development, but it must be proportionate, sympathetic to the local environment, and supported by adequate infrastructure. In its current form, the scale of this proposal is excessive and risks causing long-term harm to the community and the character of Barkham.

Developers often claim that their proposals reflect the local character and surroundings. However, many new estates end up looking exactly the same, regardless of where they are built. Standardised designs and high-density layouts fail to preserve the unique character of areas such as Barkham and gradually erode what makes them special.

For these reasons, I strongly object to the proposed development.