

PLANNING REF : 242067
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 32 Martineau Lane
: Hurst
: RG10 0SF
SUBMITTED BY : Ms Gill Gregory
DATE SUBMITTED : 19/09/2024

COMMENTS:

I write to object to this outline application.

The many valid reasons why Hurst is not a suitable location for such a large influx of new dwellings have been rehearsed time and again. The applicant/landowners appear determined to destroy the character of this strong, vibrant and healthy village. The proposal is contrary to WBC's Local Character Assessment which aims to conserve and enhance the rural character of the area. It does not naturally integrate with the current settlement and offers nothing of benefit to the existing community.

The area is an unspoilt greenfield site in a countryside location, outside the Development Limit of the Parish and village of Hurst. Having previously been determined as 'unsuitable' for development by WBC, the proposal offers no exceptional circumstances to support it.

Open green spaces within the village envelope contribute greatly to a pleasant and tranquil rural life and this field is further enhanced by the horses, ponies and donkeys that graze it, and the wildlife it attracts. These gaps between settlements also contribute positively to the wellbeing of the community and play a vital role in tackling climate and nature emergencies. The development will bring with it an increase in noise, air and light pollution - all detrimental to current residents.

The proposed development of 99 new dwellings is disproportionate to its surroundings and would create a harmful impact on the village's rural character as well as putting additional strain on the village's limited facilities. Hurst is a thriving community, but it is an unsustainable location for such a sizeable development which fails to respect the distinctive local qualities of the village.

The village has limited infrastructure, amenities and employment opportunities. There are no health services, supermarkets or secondary schools. The local public bus timetable is infrequent - the proposed 16-seater minibus is a laughable solution. Dependency on private vehicles is a fact of rural life and traffic levels will only increase on the local roads which are already hazardous for pedestrians and cyclists.

The land itself is prone to flooding. I have witnessed this every year for the 30 years I have lived in the village. Several objections have supplied photographic evidence to support this. While the pooling of surface water - which can last for days on end - attracts various species of wetland birds, a serious consequence is the drainage network at capacity which threatens existing homes.

I consider the application to be inappropriate in location and scale, and I urge WBC to reject it.

