

PLANNING REF : 241567  
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Sauterelle  
: Cricket Hill, Finchampstead  
: RG40 3TN  
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Jacqueline Burgess  
DATE SUBMITTED : 23/07/2024

COMMENTS:

The majority of the negative comments have focused on the same list of objections which were prepared by the Finchampstead against unsustainable development group. I would like to respond to these comments as follows.

Unsustainable - The Travel Plan proposes improving sustainable journeys through enhanced walking and cycling routes and better bus services. While the village shop closed due to lack of demand, new development would create demand, leading to new businesses. Nationwide, NHS services face capacity issues; an additional 40 houses will have a minimal impact. Upgrading the sewage plant would be a necessary part of this development and will benefit the entire community.

The site cannot be accessed by public transport - The Travel Plan outlines existing bus services and plans to improve them through discussions with local providers. Increased demand can lead to better services. Extending the 30mph speed limit to cover the new entrance would enhance safety for all residents.

Development would change the character of the road - There are already double-storey houses on Woodmoor. The new development would be an improvement over those houses, which are of low quality and visually unappealing.

The field forms a buffer between settlements and provides a habitat for protected species - The Nature Reserve acts as a buffer and habitat for wildlife. The field in question is regularly harvested for hay, reducing its suitability as a wildlife habitat. The removal of the bund displaced wildlife with no objection.

The site is in the countryside and outside the settlement boundary - The new Labour Government mandates more housing construction. The local Neighbourhood Development Plan lacks provisions for new housing in Finchampstead, and it is unfair to leave housing needs to other districts. Young families are priced out of the area, leading to an aging population.

Higher housing density than neighbouring areas - The higher density is due to the inclusion of affordable housing, which is in high demand. The new development will blend in with the existing Woodmoor area. The development has been designed to incorporate plenty of open green space as well as adjoing, and providing access to the nature reserve.

Urbanizing effect due to street lighting - The Council can regulate street lighting to minimize its impact, including limiting operational hours to protect wildlife. No one worries about the

impact of the intrusive floodlights from the football club!

Existing social/affordable housing projects - Improved transport and shopping facilities will only materialize with increased demand. Additional affordable housing in this area will drive such improvements.