

PLANNING REF : 242653
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 2
: Nuthatch Drive Finchwood Park, Wokingham
: RG40 4BQ
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Florentina Dita
DATE SUBMITTED : 17/11/2024

COMMENTS:

I am writing to formally object to the above-referenced planning application on behalf of myself and other fellow residents. The proposal as it now stands represents a marked deviation from the originally presented neighbourhood plans, which were a key factor in the decision-making process for many purchasers when acquiring their properties at Finchwood Park - Cala Homes, Phase 3. The revised plans not only fail to align with the community's expectations but also pose significant concerns regarding long-term wellbeing and local infrastructure capacity.

1. Deviation from Original Plans

The original neighbourhood master plan outlined the provision of much-needed communal amenities, including allotments and sports pitches. These features were explicitly marketed as integral components of the development, fostering opportunities for outdoor activity and enhancing community cohesion. Their omission in favour of additional residential units undermines the initial vision and breaches the trust of residents who purchased properties with the reasonable expectation that such amenities would be delivered.

2. Impact on Long-Term Wellbeing

The proposed reduction of outdoor recreational spaces in favour of more housing poses a direct threat to the physical and mental health of current and future residents. The reduction of green spaces and sports facilities will deprive many families of opportunities for physical activity, which is vital in combating widespread public health challenges such as obesity and mental health disorders. This is particularly concerning given the increasing recognition of outdoor space as a critical element of sustainable urban planning and public wellbeing, which brings me to my last point.

3. Strain on Overburdened GPs and other local medical services as well as local infrastructure

The addition of more residential units will inevitably lead to an influx of new families, placing significant strain on an already overstretched local infrastructure. Of particular concern is the provision of primary healthcare services. The local GP practices are currently struggling to accommodate the existing population, with patients facing lengthy wait times for appointments. The proposed increase in housing without any parallel investment in healthcare facilities is unsustainable and will exacerbate an already critical situation, compromising the quality of care available to all residents.

4. Lack of Transparency and Community Consultation

The significant departure from the initially proposed plans suggests a lack of transparency and raises questions regarding the integrity of the planning process. Residents who invested in their homes already, based on the original plans deserve the courtesy of meaningful consultation and a development that aligns with the community-focused promises initially made.

In light of the above, I urge the Council to reject the current planning application. Instead, the developers should be required to adhere to the originally presented neighbourhood plans, including the full delivery of allotments and sports pitches. This would ensure the development remains aligned with its initial vision, supports the wellbeing of its residents, and respects the trust placed in the planning process by those who chose to make this community their home.

If the original plans are no longer feasible, we request clarification on how the land originally promised for amenities will be used to deliver social value to the community. This could include creating natural habitats for wildlife, adding greenery, or introducing initiatives that generate local jobs.

While I completely appreciate that there is a need for more housing, unless proper consideration is given to how to achieve this sustainably, the current situation would only worsen in the future, ending up in a widespread public health emergency.

I respectfully request that my objection be considered as part of the Council's deliberations and look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,
Florentina Dita