

PLANNING REF : 252782
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 58 The Hawthorns
:
: RG10 9TS
SUBMITTED BY : L Timms
DATE SUBMITTED : 08/12/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing to register my strong objection to the above planning application submitted by Speedy Fuels, which proposes the construction of a fuel storage facility holding approximately 1 million litres of fuel, and a distribution facility introducing over 300 HGV movements per week through our village of Charvil.

This proposal raises serious concerns regarding environmental protection, public safety, community wellbeing, and the ability of local infrastructure to cope. I ask the Council to consider the following points:

1. Significant Public Safety Risks

The storage of such a large quantity of flammable fuel so close to Charvil Country Park, the River Loddon and public footpaths presents an unacceptable risk. In the event of an accident, leak, fire, or spillage, the consequences could be severe and extremely difficult to contain.

The proposed site is simply not appropriate for a high-risk industrial operation of this scale.

2. Harm to the Local Environment and Biodiversity

The nearby country park is a cherished natural asset, home to wildlife, walking routes, and sensitive habitats.

Concerns include:

Potential fuel leaks into soil and waterways
Air and noise pollution from increased heavy vehicle traffic
Disturbance to wildlife and loss of tranquillity

Long-term ecological damage that may not be reversible

This proposal conflicts with local policies that prioritise the protection of green spaces and biodiversity.

3. Increased Flood Risk and History of Previous Flooding

It is vital to acknowledge that the proposed site has experienced significant flooding in previous years. Locating a large-scale fuel storage facility in an area with known flood history poses a serious and foreseeable hazard.

Key issues include:

Increased likelihood of fuel leakage or contamination during flooding events
Difficulty containing spills when floodwaters spread contaminants rapidly
Risk to downstream ecosystems, farmland, and residential areas
Potential breach of environmental and safety standards intended to mitigate flood-related hazards

Placing a hazardous installation in a known flood-prone area is incompatible with responsible planning and risk management.

4. Excessive Impact of HGV Traffic on a Small Village

An additional 300+ heavy goods vehicle journeys per week would place enormous strain on our narrow village roads, which were not designed for industrial traffic.

This raises issues of:

Road safety risks for pedestrians, children, cyclists, and elderly residents

Increased noise, vibration, and pollution

Damage to road surfaces, verges, and the bridges in the vicinity

Traffic congestion and reduced air quality

The scale of vehicle movements is wholly inappropriate for a rural settlement such as ours.

5. Loss of Peace, Character, and Quality of Life

Residents choose to live in Charvil because of its rural character, clean air, and peaceful surroundings. The constant presence of heavy vehicles and industrial activity would permanently alter the nature of the village.

The recreational and ecological value of the adjacent country park would also be harmed, as visitors expect a tranquil, natural environment.

This application represents a major industrial development in an entirely unsuitable and environmentally vulnerable location. It compromises community safety, increases flood-related risk, damages local ecosystems, and threatens the wellbeing and character of our village.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Planning Committee refuse the application in full.

Thank you for considering my objection.