

PLANNING REF : 252138
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 20 Wilder Crescent
: Spencers Wood, Berkshire
: RG7 1WT
SUBMITTED BY : Miss Courtenay Barratt
DATE SUBMITTED : 02/10/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed housing development and the associated loss of green space in our community. The cumulative impact of continuous large-scale housing developments over the past eight years has already placed unsustainable pressure on local infrastructure and public services. This proposal risks pushing our community beyond breaking point.

Education Pressures

Our primary and secondary schools are already significantly oversubscribed. Despite the addition of one new primary school at Shinfield Meadows, its limited catchment area has done little to alleviate the problem. The proposed new estate would inevitably add to the number of children requiring school places, with no clear plan for how these additional needs will be met.

Healthcare Capacity

Local GP surgeries are already struggling to provide timely appointments for existing residents. An influx of new households will only exacerbate the problem, leaving current and future residents unable to access the healthcare they need.

Transport and Infrastructure Strain

Roads such as Hollow Lane and Basingstoke Road are already gridlocked during peak hours, with traffic levels increasing dramatically as a direct result of previous housing developments. Our village roads were not designed for this scale of traffic, and further development will worsen congestion, pollution, and road safety risks.

Loss of Green Space

The ongoing destruction of green spaces is one of the most concerning aspects of this proposal. Green areas are not simply "nice to have" they are essential for environmental sustainability, community well-being, and public health. Their loss will have serious long-term consequences:

Environmental impacts: Green infrastructure regulates local climate, mitigates flooding, and reduces the "heat island effect." Without it, the community becomes more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Biodiversity loss: Green spaces provide vital habitats for wildlife and support biodiversity. Their removal disrupts ecosystems and accelerates species decline.

Air quality deterioration: Trees and plants improve air quality by filtering pollutants; without them, local residents face increased exposure to harmful particles and gases.

Social and Health Consequences

Green spaces foster social cohesion, providing areas where people of all ages can meet, exercise, and build community connections. Their removal diminishes opportunities for healthy, active living and weakens community ties. Furthermore, there is a clear link between green space deprivation and worsening health inequalities, disproportionately affecting those already most vulnerable in our society.

Conclusion

This development does not represent sustainable growth. Instead, it threatens the very fabric of our community – worsening education shortages, straining healthcare, overloading roads, and permanently eroding our natural environment. The cumulative impact of unchecked development must be properly considered, and alternative solutions sought that protect both the needs of current residents and the long-term future of our area.

I urge the planning committee to reject this proposal in the interests of safeguarding the well-being, health, and cohesion of our community.