

PLANNING REF : 242067
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Westfield Road
: Caversham
: RG4 8HJ
SUBMITTED BY : Miss sarah Wilson
DATE SUBMITTED : 15/09/2024

COMMENTS:

I am objecting to planning application 242067 - for 99 dwellings on land between Lodge Road and Tape Lane RG10 0EG

I lived in Hurst for over 16 years and do not believe that this plot is suitable for these dwelling for the following reason:

-It will significantly harm the identity of Hurst. A development of this size is out of character for a small village. The plot is outside of the village envelope on a greenfield site. The site is also designated countryside. Green spaces like this are important for the mental wellbeing of the villagers in Hurst's community.

-The proposal has multiple issues due to the lack of public transport in Hurst (these are laid out below). These issues will not be negated by the proposed shuttle bus. It is extremely unrealistic to expect that residents will want to pay (or be able to with the increasing costs of living) for the shuttle bus and other proposed amenities such as the bike and car share hub. The shuttle bus is a very limited service and would not be useful to residents who commute to London (which is extremely common in Hurst). They would need to leave before 7am and certainly arrive home after 7pm.

-Hurst is a village which has village amenities and no more. The amount of development in the area must reflect this. The nearest doctors, dentist, train station and shops are in Twyford. This is a 40 minute walk which includes crossing busy roads. It is unrealistic to expect that residents would walk to the nearest town therefore they would be very reliant on the use of cars. As a young woman I did not feel comfortable doing this walk alone in the dark. Public transport in Hurst consists of a completely unreliable bus service and trains from Twyford are frequently delayed or cancelled.

-There is just one small school in Hurst which means that children need to travel to school by car (I attended school in Wokingham growing up). The shuttle bus only goes to Piggott School but children in Hurst attend a variety of schools. There is also a lack of activities in Hurst which means that parents will need to drive their children to various other locations for afterschool and weekend activities. I could not wait until I had the freedom of my own car in my teenage years as I was constantly relying on my parents for lifts for my social life.

-Further to the above, this reliance on private cars is unsafe and unrealistic in Hurst. This will greatly increase the level of traffic and the roads throughout the village will be completely gridlocked during busy periods (mornings and evenings) as there is often not adequate space for two cars to pass each other.

-Developing on the land will damage the biodiversity of this area.

It is very important that these greenfield sites are protected due to the role that they play in combating climate change.

-The archaeological impact of the development is unknown as the archaeological report has not been published.