

PLANNING REF : 242011
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 8 Mornington Avenue
: Finchampstead, Berkshire
: RG40 4UE
SUBMITTED BY : Miss L D-M
DATE SUBMITTED : 21/09/2024

COMMENTS:

I object to the planning (242011) due to the removal of trees, including those close to Protected Trees (TPO), and the existing and planned net biodiversity loss.

As confirmed by the Arboricultural assessment, three TPO trees accompany the proposed land change. The felling of these trees or removal of roots in close proximity to them is against the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association, which protects these while working with the local council. There also has been no assessment to distinguish potential habitation for bats in addition to birds and small mammals, which would add to the existing biodiversity net loss. Although the TPOs are not directly on the site, the destruction of the local habitat will impact the TPO trees and protected area from the increase in traffic, noise pollution and potential litter. This would also impact the local wildlife, locals who are living in Warren Lodge and neighbouring houses.

The proposal does include 15 new trees and shrubs to compensate for the loss of natural vegetation. Although this is a good step, planting new trees and felling established trees does not fit with the local council's climate action plan. There has been no calculation to support the felling of trees, and natural shrubland would match the emissions reduction achieved by 15 new young trees. The reduction in carbon emissions from young trees is very little and will not replace the amount of carbon the older/veteran trees will uptake. This is a must for the locals to ensure that Finchampstead can continue its success to be a climate-conscious area.

The plan (242011) also does not provide information on how it will combat the emissions produced in the construction of the site to keep in line with the council's climate action plan key priority point 7) Utilise planning policies to minimise emissions from new developments.