

PLANNING REF : 252498
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Pickwick
: School Road, Barkham, Wokingham
: RG41 4TN
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Anastasia Antipina
DATE SUBMITTED : 13/04/2026

COMMENTS:

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wish to formally object to planning applications 252498 and 252769 for the construction of approximately 2,800 and 430 dwellings on the fields behind Arborfield Church, as well as planning application 242484 for an additional 191 dwellings adjacent to the above proposals and the recently built areas of Shinfield.

These developments would have significant negative consequences for local residents, walkers, runners, cyclists and wildlife, while offering no tangible benefit to the existing community. Although located within Arborfield, the sites would encroach very close to the Sindlesham and Shinfield boundaries, resulting in the loss of a valued green buffer between villages.

The loss of these open fields would have a serious detrimental impact on both wildlife and residents' wellbeing. At present, residents and visitors enjoy the beautiful rural landscape, farm animals, wildflowers, and regular sightings of deer, foxes, rabbits, squirrels and many bird species. These large-scale developments would irreversibly damage this local habitat.

My family and I regularly use these fields and surrounding routes for cycling, walking, and outdoor exercise, particularly during the summer months. The proposals include no provision for off-road cycling paths or suitable alternatives, which would remove safe and accessible cycling opportunities on our doorstep and potentially force us to rely on cars to "hunt" for a suitable cycling environment with children. This is deeply disappointing and contradicts wider health, wellbeing, environment and sustainability objectives.

There is no clear benefit to the area from these proposals, especially in the context of excessive overdevelopment nearby. Over 3,000 homes are already being built at Arborfield Green with minimal accompanying infrastructure improvements. Further developments are also being proposed behind The Coombes Primary School (planning application 250735 - 70 dwellings), within Arborfield village (250733 - 135 dwellings), and on School Road/Langley Common (27 dwellings), among others.

With an average of 1.6 cars per household within the Borough, these developments could introduce almost 5,500 additional vehicles (!), significantly increasing traffic, pollution, and pressure on already busy and deteriorating local roads, as well as overstretched services.

For these reasons, I strongly object to these planning applications and urge the Council to refuse planning permission.

Yours faithfully,