

PLANNING REF : 252498
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Arborfield Green Community Centre
: Arborfield, Reading
: RG2 9ND
SUBMITTED BY : Barkham Parish Council
DATE SUBMITTED : 14/01/2026

COMMENTS:

The Parish Council formally objects to this application on the following grounds:

1. Highway Congestion & Traffic Safety

Residents report significant congestion, speeding issues, and high HGV volumes on Langley Common Road, a situation worsened by the closure of School Road and increasing traffic heading towards Wokingham. While BPC recognises the safety benefits of closing School Road for pupils, there are several downsides that need to be managed, particularly as these will be aggravated by the level of development planned in the area. These include the negative impact of increased traffic volumes on Langley Common Road and increased usage of the difficult junction where school road joins Langley Common Road and Barkham Road. This application, along with others (Barkham Square, Arborfield Studios, a 50-house scheme, and 350 houses at Blagrove Meadows (approved at appeal)), will further stress local highways. This is in direct conflict with Core Strategy Policy CP6 (Managing Travel Demand), which states that development must:

"reduce the need to travel and encourage the use of sustainable transport modes" (wokingham.gov.uk)

And CP10 (Improving the Transport Network), which requires: "all development proposals must deliver appropriate transport improvements or mitigate any adverse transport impacts". (wokingham.gov.uk)

These proposals fail to satisfy either requirement, as they do not adequately address transport demand or provide necessary highway mitigation.

2.

Inadequate Cumulative Impact Assessment & Mitigation

There is no comprehensive assessment of cumulative traffic impact from current and future schemes. This shortcoming contravenes Managing Development Delivery (MDD) policies and the Wokingham Local Transport Plan, which emphasise a strategic, borough-wide approach to transport infrastructure.

3. Non-Compliance with Local Transport Strategy

The Local Transport Plan 2025 highlights the need to:

- Manage increasing car dependency in rural areas
- Reduce HGV volumes
- Prioritise pedestrian and cyclist safety. (wokingham.gov.uk), (myjourneywokingham.com)

Neither application proposes suitable strategic highway improvements or active travel infrastructure to address these core objectives.

4. Sewage Infrastructure &

Environmental Protection

BPC requests that a condition be imposed to ensure no houses are occupied prior to the upgrade of Arborfield Sewage Treatment Works. Without this upgrade, discharge events into Barkham Brook will become more frequent, and further sewage overload will negatively impact our joint parishes.

5. Future Related

Application

The Parish Council is aware that another application is expected in Spring for the LGV Strategic Development Location (SDL). The Council reserves the right to submit further comments once it has reviewed all three applications together to assess their combined transport impacts.

Due to the above, the Parish Council urges refusal of this application.