

PLANNING REF : 260774
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Odiham Road
: Riseley
: RG7 1SB
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Hayley Diggins
DATE SUBMITTED : 16/05/2026

COMMENTS:

As a resident of over six years in the village, I strongly object to this application. The proposal represents unsustainable overdevelopment that our village infrastructure and rural environment cannot support.

My specific objections are:

1. Infrastructure, Services & Education: Wokingham Borough schools are at maximum capacity. Having been rejected from all of our choices within the borough in 2025, my family is forced to commute over 12 miles daily for school and nursery. New residents will face the exact same barrier.

Local GPs are already severely overstretched, and there are no supermarkets or shops within the village. Adding 44 homes without significant upgrades to local services is entirely unsustainable.

2. Highways & Traffic : The development sits next to an already congested route leading to the A33. Furthermore, the proposal sits on a narrow lane heavily used by residents for walking, cycling, and horse riding, making it fundamentally unsuitable for this scale of development.

Highway Safety: Exiting Sun Lane onto Basingstoke Road is already hazardous due to a combination of existing traffic queues and high vehicle speeds.

Car Dependency: A total lack of local shops, employment opportunities, and adequate public transport (limited bus services) guarantees total car dependency, drastically increasing traffic volumes out of the village.

3. Flooding & Drainage

Sewage System: Riseley and Swallowfield suffer from an overloaded foul sewage system that regularly fails during heavy rain.

Surface Water: Surface water runoff from the A33 already causes Bull Lane to flood in winter. Replacing soft, natural drainage ground with hardstanding will severely exacerbate this runoff, creating dangerous freezing conditions at the Basingstoke Road junction.

4. Rural Character & Wildlife

A development of this scale is entirely disproportionate. It will erode the countryside setting and introduce visual intrusion, noise, and activity levels completely inconsistent with a small rural village.

The project directly threatens established local wildlife, including deer, badgers, foxes, owls, and red kites.

In summary, this proposal will drastically reduce highway safety, destroy the identity of our community, and overwhelm non-existent infrastructure. I strongly urge it to be refused based on the above reasons.