

PLANNING REF : 242067
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Nursery Gardens
: Hurst
: RG10 0GN
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Janice Howell
DATE SUBMITTED : 19/09/2024

COMMENTS:

I wish to object to the proposed development for the following reasons:

1. The proposed development falls outside WBC's CP11 policy and does not which fall under any of the specified exemption categories.
2. Hurst does not have the infrastructure to support an additional 99 houses. There is one small shop and no medical facility to support the increase in residents who will occupy the 99 houses.
3. My family moved to Hurst three years ago as it was a more rural location, and we wanted to avoid light pollution. If the aim is to increase the use of bicycles, I would not consider it safe to have so many cyclists out in the dark on busy unlit roads. This infers that you would then need to provide street lighting, which would not be in keeping with the current environmental aims and characteristics of this rural village.
4. I do not believe that the proposals to encourage a reduction in the use of cars will be successful. The suggestion of a 16-seater minibus would be wholly inadequate, and it will still need to be funded by the residents, c 50% of which are planned to be affordable homes.
5. I note the suggestion of providing vouchers to residents towards purchasing e-bikes but I believe this to be overly optimistic that a high proportion of residents would take up this offer and, if the majority are residents with young families, they will still inevitably use their cars, especially in winter.
6. There is a lack of schools in the vicinity to support the additional homes, and those that exist are already over-subscribed, as far as I am aware. This will therefore necessitate several return car-journeys per day, with parents travelling to nursery schools, primary schools and secondary schools outside of the locality.
7. The local country road network is already busy with traffic, especially in the road by the post office and outside the primary school at certain points in the day. The roads are not capable of withstanding the increased traffic which would result from the development, and this would have health and safety implications.

On the basis of the above objections, I would ask that Wokingham District Council refuse the application for the additional houses and associated plans.