

PLANNING REF : 242067
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Salix
: Tape Lane, Hurst Reading, Berkshire
: RG10 0DP
SUBMITTED BY : Prof David Clifford Bassett
DATE SUBMITTED : 17/09/2024

COMMENTS:

The applicants claim this development will 'reflect and complement the unique village character of Hurst' by 'enhancing sustainability and biodiversity'. I struggle to see how sustainability would be increased while increased biodiversity is an illusion.

In reality the development would be an intrusion into the countryside, outside the village envelope, of suburban housing on a green field site prone to extensive flooding on most winters and out of character with the present village which retains features developed over the centuries.

At present the field hosts buzzards and red kites regularly feeding on the grass, foxes are common and roe deer visit. Flooding attracts flocks of gulls which feed at its margins. All this would be lost to the development as would the uninterrupted western horizon with the introduction of housing and lights.

Hurst is not a sustainable village. It has poor communications and limited facilities with the future existence of the store and Post Office remaining in question. Residents have mostly to rely on their cars to access surgeries, railways and a variety of stores etc. The proposed token minibus to Twyford and Piggott School would most likely have little consequence with parents choosing to drive rather than pay the fare bringing yet more cars on our overcrowded roads.

The development would make major demands on the already struggling existing infrastructure which is assumed will suffice. Sewage disposal fails in parts of the village after heavy rain while the Primary School and Pre-School are full. The proposed minibus assumes that Hurst pupils will still be able to gain entry to Piggott School despite recent evidence to the contrary, difficulties which can only increase due to large housing development in Twyford.

Permission should be refused. Were it allowed who would doubt that approval would eventually be followed by an application to develop the intervening green space thereby resurrecting the failed 2022 proposal with its many faults.