

PLANNING REF : 241567
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 9 Corfield Close
: Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire
: RG40 4PA
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Joanne Rowe
DATE SUBMITTED : 31/07/2024

COMMENTS:

I wish to register my strong objection to the proposed building of an estate on the land that provides the separation between Finchampstead and Eversley, to the east of Longwater Road, for the following reasons:

The lack of facilities in the area. There are no medical facilities within the area, only one tiny primary school (two year groups per class, already massively extended to take even this number of children) and only one shop which is more of a 'tourist shop' than a grocery shop (selling locally produced gins and perfumes, and a meagre amount of locally produced foods at extortionate prices eg. 4 for a small loaf of bread.

The public transport links are virtually non-existent, meaning all residents will have to drive everywhere - even to access the nearest regular bus services.

Longwater road itself is wholly unsuitable to have more traffic entering and exiting. The long straight nature of this road means that cars already drive far too fast, many exceeding the 60mph limit and failing to slow down as they reach the 30mph zone. Any car sticking to the speed limit is regularly overtaken by speeding vehicles. Any increase in traffic, even by law abiding driving, is going to massively increase the risk to the lives of people already living in the area. I have personally seen a number of accidents on this road, and have a friend with life changing injuries from being knocked off a bicycle on this road - please look at the figures.

There are no doctors within walking distance, none accessible by bus, and those within closest driving distance are already full.

It will irreversibly change the nature of Finchampstead, which is more of a hamlet than a village. This high density housing is massively out of character for the area.

Impact on wildlife. Along with badgers in the area, the recent rewilding of the quarry is beginning to bring a rich and diverse range of wildlife into the area. This development would immediately kill such progress, demonstrated by the hedgerow removal where there is now a highly noticeable lack of insects and birds compared to before.

A further concern is street lighting, with the needs of wildlife and resident safety been in direct opposition so impossible to reconcile.

The developments at Arborfield and Gorse Ride are much more suitable for high density housing to meet local housing need. This region of Finchampstead has seen significant development along Lower Sandhurst Road which is more in keeping with the character of the village/hamlet.

For all the reasons stated above, this area is totally unsuitable for social and affordable housing, which is the primary need nationally.. Even those on average incomes would struggle here. This development has nothing to do with local need and everything to do with developer and council greed.