

PLANNING REF : 250959
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Tollgate Cottage
: , 105 Old Bath Road, Old Bath Road, Charvil
: RG10 9QN
SUBMITTED BY : Ms Victoria Robinson
DATE SUBMITTED : 26/05/2025

COMMENTS:

Dear Planning Officer,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of a fuel depot within Charvil Country Park.

While I was initially open-minded about the proposal, a closer review of the plans and location has raised significant concerns. I support responsible development and understand the operational needs of companies such as Speedy Fuels. However, the decision to site this facility within a designated nature reserve appears both inappropriate and high-risk.

Environmental Risks

Charvil Country Park, including the interconnected lakes and the River Loddon, is a highly sensitive ecosystem. The risk of both routine and accidental fuel spills poses a serious threat to local wildlife and natural habitats. The area is also prone to flooding, which heightens the potential for environmental contamination.

Health Concerns

Living near a fuel depot carries known health risks, including exposure to airborne pollutants such as benzene a recognised carcinogen. HVO fuel is also a respiratory irritant, with potential long-term effects on neurological and respiratory health. As a healthcare professional with existing respiratory issues, I am particularly concerned about the impact on vulnerable residents, especially children and the elderly.

Safety and Community Impact

Old Bath Road already experiences high levels of traffic and congestion. The presence of large vehicles, including Speedy Fuels trucks observed previously travelling at speed, raises serious safety concerns. The proposed operating hours would exacerbate noise and disruption, especially during evenings and weekends when residents expect peace and rest.

Charvil is a small village with limited road and environmental infrastructure, making it ill-suited to accommodate an industrial operation of this scale.

While I believe Speedy Fuels acts in good faith and values environmental protection, the decision to purchase and develop a site within a nature reserve is difficult to reconcile with those values. A lack of thorough understanding of the risks to our environment and community prior to purchase should not result in our community bearing the consequences.

Conclusion

The location of the proposed depot within a sensitive environmental area and adjacent to a residential community raises significant

concerns. I respectfully urge the planning committee to reject this proposal in favour of a more appropriate site that aligns with both public health interests and environmental stewardship.