

PLANNING REF : 242067
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Swallow Cottage
: Swallow Cottage Rosevale Drive, Hurst, Hurst, Reading, Berksh
: RG10 0DQ
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Jessica Boyden
DATE SUBMITTED : 02/09/2024

COMMENTS:

I make this Objection to 99 houses on land East of Lodge Road, Hurst, Berkshire just like I did to the previous application for 200 plus houses on this land and as I did when I attended the appeal for the application for 200 plus houses to object.
(APP/X0360/W/22/3309202)

Reducing the number to 99 houses does nothing to relay any of my original concerns and I whole heartedly still object to the main piece of green space in our village being tarmacked over and making our village turn into a town.

I send this letter following on from my initial submission to the council to whole heartedly reject the application of 99 homes in Hurst.

We choose Hurst due to the quiet village feel, being surrounded with fields and period properties that are nicely spread over the village. In 2016 when we moved into our home which is opposite the Hurst Primary School, we were unable to get our then six year old daughter into the local school as the then current year 2 cohort was full. I therefore had to spend an entire academic year driving to Twyford to her school, then driving back to Hurst to take my then middle child to the Hurst Village preschool, situated by the village hall. It was not until September 2017 that I managed to get my then seven-year-old into the Hurst school and my middle child into it also. Fast forward to March 1st, 2021, and the day we found out my eldest daughter did not get into our first choice secondary school The Piggott. My daughter was 56th in the waiting list that March. We were allocated Waingels College in Woodley. You can only drive to this school and that involves going down Sandford Lane by Dinton Pastures which during winter months is closed due to flooding. The only other route is going through the centre of Twyford and the crossroads junction

which at the best of times at rush hour and school times backs up considerably. She finally got into Piggott 18 months later in Year 8. My main concern with building 200 plus home in Hurst village is where are the new children going to go to school. The Hurst primary school is full and only allows 20 children a year unlike most larger schools in surrounding towns that take 60 children per year. I am also aware, as I used to work there that the Hurst preschool is also over

subscribed and can only take 25 children at any time of the day which is 9-3 opening hours. In recent years due to covid and increasing costs, many local preschools have shut down and so the Hurst Preschool now caters for children as far as Wokingham, Winnersh and Woodley. They all drive through our village to bring their children. Go to the preschool at 9am or 3pm and see just how many cars arrive in the

village. There is an over a year waiting list at the preschool. The same is an issue with Hurst primary school as a vast majority of the families travel by car to get to the school. Many are Woodley families who ironically can't get their children into the Woodley primary schools. School Road between 8.30-9 and considerably more at pick up at 3.15pm is horrendous due to parked cars. The traffic

warden is often requested due to the chaos on this road at pick up times. I often struggle to even get to my own driveway. I would suggest any officer involved in this development should come at 3.15pm and see for themselves that the village is fit to burst with cars already before you add another 99-200 with this Tape Lane development, given many homes have two cars nowadays.

Where are the children of this new development going to go to secondary school? Hurst is actually not in catchment or first choice position for any school and every year the Hurst school cohort are separated between 6-7 schools which is sad that they don't get to continue their education together and every year its pot luck what school the children get, with it often being our Hurst children getting wherever there is space as supposed to being in a position to choose what school is best for their individual child. What research has been made by the developer and yourselves to really learn the dire situation of available schools in this area? The huge development in Wokingham that borders Hurst has meant our children struggle to get into Wokingham secondary schools now. The huge airfield development in Woodley means again there is more children fighting for those places.

These are genuine worries all Hurst families have at the best of times let alone with 99 houses looming over us. That could be hundreds of new children in our village and joining an educational system that is full to the brim already. Are there plans for new schools to be build near Hurst? Any schools in the pipeline for Wokingham borough are not near Hurst.

My family have two cars and most families in Hurst do. No supermarkets near for us to walk. The village shop caters for essentials like milk and bread but not for a weekly shop. I must travel in the car to Winnersh, Twyford or Wokingham. Hurst offers no extra curricular activities for kids except scouts so with three daughters I am driving every evening to Woodley, the nearest town where a rich variety of sporting activities can be found.

The transport system is a joke in Hurst. A bus once an hour a couple of hours in the day. Nothing at nighttime, making the residents reliant on taxis if out socialising. Any new residents of the proposed Tape Lane development will be 100% reliant on having at least one if not two cars. Yes you can cycle to the station if you work in London and get the train but many people don't and work in places in

surrounding areas that do not have transport links. I work at a school the other side of Twyford so have to drive. I am in my car constantly as there is no other option. I would love to be able to get a bus and for my eldest daughter to walk or cycle to school but the

infrastructure and lack of schools does not allow for this. It is lies to hear that when the four houses on Sawpit Road in Hurst were approved recently following appeal that they said people are able to live in the village without a vehicle. Its just not true.

So I want to know that these genuine concerns are heard. I want you to know that this village has had many issues already due to housing in surrounding nearby areas being build. I cannot get a place at GP

practice in Twyford. I have to travel 15 mins to Binfield where in 2016 I managed to get our family a place. I know now that Hurst would not be able to get into Binfield surgery as it is over

subscribed. So where do you propose the new residents of Tape Lane register with a Doctor? I ask the same question with Dentists? The four dentists in Twyford are oversubscribed and the NHS one certainly is. I can barely get an appointment unless I book six months in advance. No one involved with this development is giving real answers to real questions? They say it will be fine and Hurst's infrastructure can take it but 200 potential people, that's if there was only 2 persons to a house, more likely you would have 3,4 or even 5 person families living in each house, so maybe 600 people will collapse everything. Where are they to access these services that current residents are already struggling to access? Have you seen how narrow the main road is in Hurst by the village shop? Due to residents parking their cars outside their houses on the road it becomes a single lane and bottle neck and many serious crashes have occurred there, with my friend having two parked cars written off in as many years. Its already so busy with people using it as a rat run between Twyford and Wokingham. The same can be said for the road from Hurst to Winnersh that the oposed entrance will be on. They are country lanes, not A roads. They cannot take hundreds more cars.

Hurst is an established home to many species of animals and myself and my children enjoy our walks past this field and seeing wildlife blooming. Hedgehogs, bats, rabbits, foxes, insects, birds. With the amount of housing in recent years being built in nearby Cantley area, Woodley airfield etc Hurst remains one of the few biodiverse areas. Do not destroy this for the Hurst residents who have chosen to live in Hurst for this very reason, to be rural and surrounded by wildlife. There are numerous brown sites Wokingham can use that are far more sustainable such as the application for flats on Ruscombe business park, a location residents would be able to walk to a supermarket, train station and all other amenities. I cannot reiterate enough a resident in Hurst relies daily on car journeys to do anything and everything. Please don't add 200 plus cars to our already dangerous country lanes.

Please on behalf of such a concerned Hurst village member, do not allow this beautiful rural village to be ruined and become an overcrowded rat run. The children already living here deserve to get the education they need. Lets get more schools and GP surgeries built before housing is even considered.

Nothing has changed since the appeal in 2023 when the inspector declared Hurst an unsustainable location for a large build application. This was refused along with Broadcommon Road application for 30 houses, School Road application for 20 plus houses. These applications and the decisions made must be considered when deciding on the future again of this magnificent field