

PLANNING REF : 260353
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Field Cottage
: Whistley Green, Hurst, Reading, England
: RG100EB
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Nigel Alexander Spencer Burn-Murdoch
DATE SUBMITTED : 23/02/2026

COMMENTS:

This site has only just been ruled as unsuitable by council planners and this was upheld on appeal after exhaustive consideration and evidence by experts in 2024 and previously in 1999.

I have lived overlooking the site for 43 years and each winter have witnessed standing water in multiple locations. The proposal does not do anything to meet the principal housing need in the Parish, namely low cost homes that first time buyers can realistically afford.

All the multiple reasons the past applications which caused them to be refused still apply and it looks like a very speculative and vexatious attempt by the same developer to come back again with this latest effort.

If allowed, not only would this erode the current separation of settlements of the Wards Cross and Whistley Green areas of Hurst but would make the rump of the field useless for agriculture and more likely for new efforts to infill with new development.

Hurst has already had several new builds with the Martineau and Valley Nursery developments and now the extensive School road site about to start. It is imperative that rural communities should continue as separate entities and not be merged into one vast conurbation. You only need to drive from Hurst to Twyford where you will see the main road used as an overflow car park along with every non yellow lined road in the area, to see the huge impact of mass development in Wokingham and other towns on residents many miles away.

The undoubted need for more houses needs to be met at locations where new infrastructure is planned in parallel to meet the needs of the new arrivals. The Piggott School already is full and daily causes traffic jams at pick up and drop off times.

I urge the planning committee to reject this once again. In doing so I am confident this will be approved by the vast majority of the residents of Hurst.