

PLANNING REF : 242598
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 6
: 6 , Walden Aven Arborfield, Arborfield , Wokingham, Berkshire
: RG29HR
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Michelle Scicluna
DATE SUBMITTED : 22/11/2024

COMMENTS:

I strongly object to the proposed development plans for Millworth Lane as outlined by Shinfield Parish Council (SPC). This development would have significant negative impacts on Shinfield Rangers Football Club (SRFC), a vital community institution, as well as the broader Shinfield community. My objections are based on the following points:

Loss of a Historical and Community Asset

Millworth Lane has been home to Shinfield Rangers since 1972, providing a crucial space for youth and adult football. Over 50 years of continuous community engagement and activity would be uprooted by this development. The loss of this space would erode a vital part of Shinfield's identity and heritage.

Lack of Consultation with Stakeholders

SPC has failed to adequately consult with Shinfield Rangers regarding these plans. As primary users and caretakers of Millworth Lane, the club deserved meaningful input into decisions that will affect its operations, members, and the community. This lack of engagement undermines the principles of fair and transparent decision-making.

Inadequate Replacement Provisions

The alternative facilities mentioned High Copse, Hyde End Lane, Manor Ground, and Ryeish Green are either unavailable, poorly maintained, or unsuitable for Shinfield Rangers' needs. The absence of guaranteed access to equivalent or better facilities will leave the club without a viable home, directly impacting 11 youth teams, 60 adults, and over 100 children.

Community Impact

Millworth Lane is more than just a sports ground; it is a community space enjoyed by many. Its development would reduce recreational opportunities and disrupt the social fabric of Shinfield. The maintenance and quality of the pitches have been upheld solely by Shinfield Rangers at no cost to SPC, demonstrating the club's commitment to serving the community.

Traffic and Environmental Concerns

The relocation of games to other venues, such as Ryeish Green, will exacerbate traffic issues and put additional strain on existing infrastructure. This is counterproductive and harmful to the environment and community well-being.

Financial Sustainability of Shinfield Rangers

The club is financially stable and capable of maintaining Millworth Lane to its current high standards. SPC's actions disregard the club's ability to continue serving as stewards of this land and as a cornerstone of the local community.

I urge the council to reconsider these plans and prioritize the preservation of Millworth Lane as the home of Shinfield Rangers. Any development should include genuine consultation with the club and provision of equivalent or superior facilities to ensure that Shinfield Rangers can continue its vital role in the community.

Let us work together to protect the future of our community and its cherished institutions.