

PLANNING REF : 241567
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 45
: 45 Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire
: RG40 3TS
SUBMITTED BY : Dr Sarah Hale
DATE SUBMITTED : 31/07/2024

COMMENTS:

I wish to object to the application to build 40 houses off Longwater Lane.

1. The main objection is the lack of infrastructure. You can't live in the village without having a car. The main bus service mentioned in the travel plans runs from 10:15am to 12:20pm, who is this serving? No one on the school run or commuting could make use of that service. It would be safe to say there is no accessible public service to Wokingham, or the train station.

The last bus back on the 406 route from Yateley leaves before 5pm. These are not useful services.

There is no bus to the nearest station and they have suggested the option of cycling, not a hobby a lot of people are in to, so the only other option is to drive. How much parking is there in Crowthorne?

2. There are no foot paths to Finchampstead. My daughter goes to a school in Finchampstead and we can't safely walk there without going on a road 40-60mph without paths and it takes 30mins. The local school is too small, with no space to increase capacity. Children will likely have to go further away.

3.
There are no amenities that you can walk or bus to. They suggest Sainsbury's in Yateley as a close shop but again there is no convenient bus service and that is a 40-50min walk down a road that's national speed limit.

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4. The suggestion of WiFi as a sustainable measure to encourage people to WFH is far reaching at best. Most companies have their own WFH policies, and it's not up to employees. It would be far better to have 20 houses with larger gardens and sections for home allotments if they are serious about sustainability. Permeable paths and driveways, and solar panels on the roofs would also help.

5. There are barn owls in the field, hunting from the oak trees. Whilst not endangered, the development will disturb them, will that be addressed?

6. There is a lot of privately owned land around the village, what is to stop anyone selling off land for houses once this sets a precedent? Is there a development plan, as this is not part of the FBC plan? This is concerning.

In conclusion, if WBC want more houses in the village there needs to be a development plan including infrastructure, before allowing

developments: a bus service running all day to Wokingham, 2 per hr, from 6am to 10pm, a local shop that isn't an artisan food shop, another secondary school, NHS dentists as there are currently none, and more capacity at the Dr's. There need to be safe footpaths between the village and Finchampstead main and reduced speed limits - why is it national speed limit on Longwater Lane? Will any traffic restriction measures be implemented to make the turning into and out of the area safe?

Until then, we will continue to object to any developments.