

PLANNING REF : 241567
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Lavender Cottage
: 4 Cricket Hill, Finchampstead, Berkshire
: RG40 3TN
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Christopher King
DATE SUBMITTED : 24/07/2024

COMMENTS:

I'd like to voice my concerns about the proposed development on the southern edge of Finchampstead.

The developers may get my support if they can meet the following requirements:

1. A full and unequivocal guarantee that all wildlife - in both the immediate vicinity of the site and into the adjacent conservation area - will be protected indefinitely.
2. To make safeguards as will be necessary to prevent damage to the site, bearing in mind that the area is subject to flooding. Any building here is likely to affect the delicate environmental balance for both humans and wildlife. In other words, it's not sustainable.
3. The provision of a new shop and post office services in the village.
4. A new school. With new 40 houses and a high proportion of younger people there will be a demand for primary and secondary education within easy - preferably walkable - reach.
5. Healthcare facilities. The surgeries at Finchampstead and Yateley are at full capacity.
6. Improved systems for transport. More cars mean more congestion, and Finchampstead's roads have not seen significant upgrading since the days of the pony and trap, despite far greater loading of late.

In essence, the 40 new houses will mean close to 200 more people. Finchampstead village itself (excluding the newer houses to the north of the church) comprises not much more than this.

Apparently, we cannot oppose the plans based on a loss of "aesthetic appeal" or a lack of precedent for a new development of this size in an old village. But if all the above criteria are met then maybe the developers should be allowed to proceed.

But the village we know and love will be destroyed.