

PLANNING REF : 250959
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 22
: Newbury Close, Charvil, Berkshire
: RG10 9RT
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Mawgan Wilkins
DATE SUBMITTED : 28/05/2025

COMMENTS:

Objection to Planning Application 250959 - Proposed Fuel Storage and Distribution Facility, Old Bath Road

I am writing to formally object in the strongest possible terms to the planning application 250959 for the proposed fuel storage and distribution facility at Old Bath Road. This proposal presents significant and unacceptable risks to both the environment and local community, with no discernible benefits to offset these detriments.

Environmental Concerns

The proposed site's immediate proximity to a Country Park, with fuel tanks bordering existing lakes, poses an unacceptable environmental hazard. While intentions for tank placement may be well-meaning, the inherent risk of a fuel spill and subsequent pollution entering these lakes, and subsequently the River Loddon (which connects to the River Thames), is ever-present. Such an event would constitute an environmental disaster for the entire area, with devastating long-term consequences for local ecosystems and water quality. In addition the plans to allow vehicle to be cleaned on the site, increases the likelihood that contamination will leak into the ground and into local water sources.

Highway Safety and Traffic Impact

The Old Bath Road is fundamentally unsuitable for the projected increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic associated with this development. This stretch of road is already characterised as dangerous and extremely bendy. It serves as a vital route for a diverse range of users, including cars, cyclists, and pedestrians traveling to Twyford and its railway station.

Current traffic conditions already highlight the road's limitations. Regular deliveries and collections of tires to an adjacent business frequently cause multi-axle vehicles to stop on the Old Bath Road, bringing traffic to a complete halt. These vehicles then perform reversing maneuvers into their site, creating long queues and forcing other drivers to navigate a blind bend with significant risk. The addition of Speedy Fuel vehicles to this already strained ture will render the Old Bath Road a treacherous nightmare for all local road users and residents.

Furthermore, the Old Bath Road is a busy route for buses and other general traffic, and critically, it serves as a school route for at least four nearby primary and secondary schools. The substantial increase in HGV movements will significantly compromise the safety of children traveling to and from these institutions.

Detrimental Change of Use

This proposed change of use represents a significant and detrimental alteration to the existing facility. The increase in traffic volume, coupled with the environmental risks, will have a profound adverse effect on the local community. Crucially, there are no benefits associated with this development that could possibly outweigh these severe negative impacts.

For these reasons, I urge the planning committee to reject this application.