

PLANNING REF : 251310
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 56 Reading Road
: Finchampstead, Berks
: RG404RA
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Chris Walker
DATE SUBMITTED : 13/06/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of 650 houses in Arborfield. As a resident of Finchampstead and someone who has long valued the rural nature of this region, I am deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts of this development on both the environment and the infrastructure of the area.

The current road network in the area is already in a state of disrepair and cannot accommodate the additional traffic that a development of this scale would bring. The roads are narrow and poorly maintained. Adding hundreds of new homes would increase traffic volume exponentially, making an already dangerous and deteriorating road system even more hazardous for residents and visitors alike.

The proposed development is part of an ongoing trend of excessive urbanization in a previously rural area that has already experienced significant development in the recent past. In the last 10 years, multiple housing projects have been undertaken, which has led to an increase in local population density, strain on local services, and the loss of green spaces that were once vital for local wildlife and residents' well-being. This constant expansion is eroding the very character that makes this rural area desirable and livable.

Furthermore, the local infrastructure and services such as schools, healthcare facilities, and public transport are already at capacity. The addition of so many new households would further strain these services, creating additional burdens on an already stretched system. The area lacks adequate provision for the growing population, and this development would exacerbate the situation, leading to overcrowding, longer wait times for services, and a diminished quality of life for all residents.

One of the key reasons many people choose to live in rural areas is the sense of peace, space, and connection to nature. The proposed development would disrupt this community fabric and diminish the rural charm that is integral to this area's identity. The influx of new residents would likely lead to increased noise, a loss of privacy, and a reduction in the overall sense of community cohesion that we currently enjoy.

I fully recognize the need for more housing, particularly in light of population growth and changing demographics. However, I believe that the proposed development is not an appropriate or sustainable solution. Rather than further urbanizing this rural area, I would urge the council to focus on brownfield sites or underdeveloped urban areas that already have the necessary infrastructure to accommodate new homes. This would allow for responsible growth without damaging the environment or overburdening local services.

In light of the serious concerns outlined above, I respectfully

request that the council reject the proposal for the development of 650 houses in Arborfield. This project would have a profoundly negative impact on the local infrastructure, environment, and community, and I believe there are more suitable locations for new housing developments.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Chris Walker