

PLANNING REF : 262274
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 50 Francis Street
: Reading
: RG1 2QB
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Ruth Ng
DATE SUBMITTED : 12/10/2026

COMMENTS:

I object to this planning application.

From the consultation, over 87% of respondents objected to the proposals. Although the company then slightly adjusted their plans, they did not make any significant changes, and I feel that the objections have not been properly addressed, nor the scale of the opposition to these plans taken into account.

The plans still include the use of fossil fuels in order to power the property, using gas cells until they are allowed to connect to the National Grid. Council should not be allowing these large, power-hungry centres to be built unless they are running on renewable energy. Our heatwave summer has shown the dire straits that our world is already in, and we shouldn't continue to make things worse. We are being asked, as a country, to prepare emergency supplies to be able to cope when our local infrastructure fails. We shouldn't be looking to create new buildings that have such incredibly high demands on the grid, especially not when the grid has refused to supply any new centres because they do not have enough power to cope!

The plans (and the consultation) make a great deal of repurposing all of the heat that will be generated by the site, but when I questioned this at the consultation meeting I was told there is no infrastructure in place to actually use this, and that it would be unlikely to happen. At best, they mentioned heating the pool of the David Lloyd gym (which is a commercial business and requires a subscription rather than it being a community space). There is no infrastructure in Reading to reuse this heat, and no commitment from this project to create that infrastructure, therefore all the excess heat generated will be lost to the environment, causing a further impact on the local climate and local residents. This escape of heat has been seen in Slough at the data centres there, where temperatures have raised since they have been built.

The concerns around noise levels, and vibration from the property, still remain. There are many local residents, and they should not have their lives affected by a new data centre. We are witness at the moment to the increasing news stories from America where data centres have been built quickly, ignoring local concerns, and leaving properties damaged from local vibrations, and residents damaged mentally from the ongoing loud noise.

I also object to the location of this datacentre because TVP is one of the sites being considered as a location for the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The building of a new hospital is far more important, and a much bigger priority, than a data centre.

Finally, I would question the need for a data centre at all, and I would ask the council to consider the fact that we are being

force-fed a narrative by tech-bro trillionaires who desperately need the world to invest in AI so that they can keep on making more and more money. AI is not inevitable, and it does not have to be our future. Recent news stories have highlighted the dangers, and there is still no regulation of this new technology. There should be a moratorium on any new centres being built until it can be properly ascertained how much damage they are causing, and how dangerous the technology is. We do not need generative AI in our pockets. Its use is affecting our ability to think critically, and it is having a huge impact on the job market, especially lower paid, lower skilled workers. It is trained on stolen, copyright data. And the environmental impact of running billions of unnecessary queries every day is astronomical, and growing larger every day.

Please listen to local residents who, by a large majority, do not want this centre.