

PLANNING REF : 241567  
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 10 Burnmoor Meadow  
: Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire  
: RG40 3TX  
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Alison Ahmed  
DATE SUBMITTED : 26/07/2024

COMMENTS:

Having lived in Burnmoor Meadow for 28 years I know that it is very hard to live here without access to a car. There are no bus services in the village. The village shop opposite the Finchampstead Memorial Hall which included a post office and petrol station closed a couple of years ago. The nearest services including a couple of small supermarkets, GP surgery, petrol station, pharmacy etc are at California Crossroads which can only be reached by car. The pedestrian route is to walk up to the previous site of the Cross and walk down Jubilee road which is only wide enough for 2 cars, has no pavement, no verge and also has steep banks on either side so there is literally nowhere to walk and be safe from the traffic. This is also a busy road (though temporarily quieter as it is affected by the development work at California Crossroads). It is a scary experience to walk that way even in daylight. If you were to walk down Longwater Road, the B3272 road to Yateley is also in parts a fast road with no pavement. Another alternative is to walk down Fleet Hill but this also has no pavement. Therefore this development would generate many extra car journeys through the village every day.

The Wokingham Borough Council Local Plan says that this site is outside the settlement boundary. The site does not comply with policies cp1, cp3, cp4, cp6 or cp9 of the Wokingham Local Plan or the very recently agreed Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan. This site is also a buffer between the housing at Woodmoor and the land on the south that is due to become a nature reserve. If the development goes ahead the wildlife would be pushed away from the boundary of the wildlife reserve. Given the density of the housing proposed it is likely that there would be street lighting and that would be a deterrent for wildlife and even if there is no street lighting there would be an urbanising effect right up to the boundary of the wildlife reserve. There is a footpath that runs along the top of the proposed site which is frequently used by myself and hikers and dog walkers to access Lower Sandhurst Road. If the development were to go ahead this path would become an alleyway between sets of houses and would be a completely different experience.

The plan is for a much higher housing density than any of the neighbouring areas. It will look out of place in such a rural area, especially so close to the nature reserve.