

PLANNING REF : 250517
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 10 Century Drive
: Spencers Wood, Berkshire
: RG7 1PE
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Denise Smale
DATE SUBMITTED : 07/04/2025

COMMENTS:

Objection to Proposed Housing Development in Spencers Wood

I am writing to formally object to the proposed housing development in Spencers Wood, Reading.

While I understand the need for more housing in the region, I believe this development is not appropriate for several key reasons:

Pressure on Local Infrastructure: Spencers Wood already experiences strain on essential infrastructure, such as schools, healthcare services, and roads. The addition of more housing will only exacerbate these issues, further stretching resources that are already insufficient to meet the needs of the current population. There is a significant concern that local services and facilities will become overwhelmed, negatively impacting the quality of life for current and future residents.

Environmental Impact: Spencers Wood is home to several important green spaces, wildlife habitats, and areas of natural beauty. The proposed development threatens to encroach upon these valuable resources, potentially leading to the destruction of local ecosystems and a reduction in biodiversity. This will have long-term environmental consequences and contradicts the broader goals of sustainability and conservation.

Traffic Congestion and Safety Concerns: The local road network, including key routes like the Basingstoke Road, already experiences significant traffic congestion during peak hours. The addition of more housing will lead to increased traffic, making commuting more difficult and posing safety risks for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. There is a real concern that the development will increase pollution levels, contributing to the area's air quality issues.

Loss of Community Identity and Character: Spencers Wood is a small, rural village with a close-knit community. The proposed development would drastically alter the character of the village, turning it into a more urbanised area. This could result in a loss of the sense of community and diminish the charm that attracts people to live here in the first place.

Lack of Adequate Consultation: It appears that local residents have not been adequately consulted or informed about the scale and implications of this development. The feedback and concerns of those living in Spencers Wood must be thoroughly considered before any decision is made. A transparent and inclusive planning process is crucial to ensuring that the views of the community are taken into account.

In conclusion, while I appreciate the need for additional housing in Reading, I urge the council to reconsider this proposal in light of the above concerns. Spencers Wood is a village that thrives on its sense of community and environmental beauty, and this development threatens both. I ask that the council prioritise sustainable and thoughtful growth that truly benefits both new and existing residents, without compromising the integrity of the area.