

PLANNING REF : 241926
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 1 Messenger Road
: Woodley
: RG5 4TR
SUBMITTED BY : Miss Roisin Irwin
DATE SUBMITTED : 09/12/2024

COMMENTS:

I am a teenager living in Woodley, and I am writing to strongly object to the planning application 241926 for the site at Viscount Way, Woodley, RG5 4SN. The proposal to allow 24-hour deliveries at Unit 9 raises several serious concerns that I believe will negatively impact our community.

Firstly, the noise pollution from 24-hour deliveries will be unbearable. Chronic noise exposure contributes to significant health issues, including heart disease and sleep disturbances. The constant noise from trucks and unloading activities throughout the night will disrupt the sleep of residents, especially children and the elderly. Adequate sleep is crucial for our health and well-being, and this proposal threatens to undermine that.

Secondly, the traffic congestion and safety risks are alarming. Viscount Way is already a busy road, particularly during school hours. Introducing unrestricted delivery times will exacerbate traffic problems, making it more dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. In 2023, there were 1,695 reported road deaths in Great Britain, highlighting the dangers of increased traffic. The increased presence of heavy vehicles poses a significant risk to the safety of students walking or cycling to school. This is a risk that our community should not have to bear.

The environmental impact of this proposal is also deeply concerning. More delivery trucks mean higher emissions, contributing to air pollution and harming the health of local residents. Transport is the largest emitting sector of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK, producing 26% of the total emissions in 2021. This goes against the environmental education we receive in school, where we are taught the importance of reducing pollution and protecting our planet. The proposed noise management plan for Unit 9 does not adequately address these environmental concerns.

Additionally, the light pollution from 24-hour operations will disrupt the natural day-night cycle, affecting both residents and local wildlife. Light pollution affects 83% of the world's population, disrupting natural sleep patterns and contributing to health issues such as insomnia and increased cancer risks. Constant lighting can interfere with sleep patterns and have detrimental effects on the health of both people and animals. Protecting our local environment and maintaining biodiversity is crucial, and this proposal threatens to undermine those efforts.

Another significant issue is the impact on wildlife. The area around Viscount Way is home to various animals and birds. Increased noise, light, and traffic can disturb their habitats and lead to a decline in local wildlife populations. An estimated 88 animals are struck by vehicles every day on UK roads, equivalent to almost 32,000 every year. It is our responsibility to protect these creatures and their

habitats.

Approving this variation could set a dangerous precedent. If this application is granted, it may encourage other businesses to seek similar relaxations, leading to a cumulative negative impact on our community. Maintaining strict control over delivery timings is essential to preserving the residential character of our area.

Moreover, the sense of community could be severely affected. The increased industrial activity might make residents feel less safe and more stressed, leading to a decline in community spirit. Our neighborhood should be a place where people feel comfortable, happy, and secure.

Lastly, there appears to have been insufficient consultation with the community regarding this significant change. As young people, our voices matter too, and we should have a say in decisions that affect our lives. The lack of proper consultation is deeply concerning and undermines the democratic process.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reject this application. The potential negative impacts on noise levels, traffic safety, environmental health, wildlife, and community well-being far outweigh any benefits that may be derived from lifting the delivery timing restrictions for Unit 9.

Thank you for considering my objections.