

PLANNING REF : 252782
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 11 Northbury Avenue
: Ruscombe
: RG10 9LH
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Rhys Lidstone
DATE SUBMITTED : 16/12/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed fuel depot on Old Bath Road. Storing over 837,000 litres of hazardous fuel on the edge of a residential village and right next to a nature reserve is completely inappropriate and, frankly, dangerous.

This is not a small local business. The plans involve storing around 711 tonnes of fuel, including diesel, kerosene and heating oils, turning the site into a major industrial facility in a residential area. Its location close to homes, schools and the River Loddon poses an obvious risk to both people and the environment.

The traffic impact alone should be enough to reject this application. The proposal allows for 132 vehicle movements every weekday, including 59 HGVs and articulated lorries weighing up to 42 tonnes. These vehicles would have to swing into the opposite lane to turn in and out of the site on a blind bend, creating a very real collision risk that is already visible in the area. This danger is made worse by congestion from parked vehicles at the neighbouring tyre depot, which already causes a bottleneck. Old Bath Road is used daily by pedestrians, cyclists, children and commuters, and increasing heavy vehicle traffic here is simply unsafe.

There are also serious environmental concerns. The site is on unstable made ground with a high water table and a known flood risk. The plans include discharging surface water and treated sewage straight into the River Loddon, which is a protected nature reserve. Any fuel leaks or runoff something that is inevitable over time would pollute the river and nearby lakes, causing long-term damage to local wildlife.

The claimed biodiversity gain feels misleading. Planting a small number of trees and shrubs does not make up for the risks introduced by a fuel depot of this scale. The fact that the developers are proposing concrete retaining walls and gabions to stabilise the ground only highlights how unsuitable the site is for this kind of development.

Twyford and Charvil are residential communities, not places for industrial fuel storage. This proposal would permanently change the character of the area and reduce safety for everyone who lives nearby. Approving it would be a serious mistake.

In summary, this application is deeply flawed. The amount of fuel being stored, the increase in heavy traffic, the flood and pollution risks and the location next to homes and a nature reserve make this development completely unsuitable. I urge the planning committee to reject it and protect the safety and character of our community.