

PLANNING REF : 241567
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 27 Longwater Road
: Wokingham
: RG40 3TS
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Thomas Burden
DATE SUBMITTED : 30/07/2024

COMMENTS:

My main concerns for this new development are based around the impact on wildlife and are as followed

First and foremost, the wetlands adjacent to the proposed site is a site of importance for many birds. In the last couple of years several rare and protected species have used the land including:

Spoonbills - listed on Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act, making it illegal to disturb these birds.

Marsh Harriers - Classified in the UK as Amber under the Birds of Conservation Concern 5: the Red List for Birds (2021). Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

Great White Egrets - Classified in the UK as Amber under the Birds of Conservation Concern 5: the Red List for Birds (2021). Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

Glossy Ibis - rare in UK.

By using the land directly adjacent to where these birds have been spotted would, once built, threaten their habitat via light pollution from street lights and noise pollution from those living there. One must also consider the similar damage that the construction would have on this important habitat. The field, additionally, is a home to, and provides hunting grounds, for tawny owls (Amber List of Birds of Conservation Concern in 2015) and I also believe that there is a badgers sett there which would obviously be destroyed in contravention of The Protection of Badgers Act (1992).

Any amount of additional human/urban structures in this area can have significant negative repercussions to these species, potentially stopping them from using the area, thus removing a habitat. It must also be understood that the wetlands adjacent to the proposed site is unique in the area in that it provides shallow, wading water, whereas the lakes to the east and west are deeper water.

It is of my opinion that disrupting this land in any way, including building next to it, will most likely threaten multiple rare and protected species, which is not worth the risk of simply having 40 new houses. Take into account that Finchampstead is also happily meeting housing demand thanks to the Finchwood/Aborfield Green developments and this development becomes a human luxury to the detriment of important wildlife.

As a secondary point of objection, the new development would turn a rather nice, albeit relatively short footpath essentially into an alleyway, having housing on both sides of it, which would diminish

the enjoyment and view of the great countryside we have here. It would also impair the views from the perspective of the proposed wildlife reserve spoken about in detail above and is therefore, in my opinion, not in keeping with the rural aspect of the village - something that is important to me and, I suspect, visitors.