

PLANNING REF : 242067
PROPERTY ADDRESS : South Orchards
: Orchard Road, Hurst, Berks
: RG100SD
SUBMITTED BY : Dr Nicola Boyd
DATE SUBMITTED : 19/09/2024

COMMENTS:

I wish to object to this planning application.

1. The proposed development would irreversibly damage the landscape and character of the village of Hurst. It would create a suburban estate in what is now rural countryside. Such a large number of densely-packed houses would be completely out of character with the rest of the village.

2. It has been demonstrated many times, including when the previous application for this site was rejected a planning inspector, that Hurst simply does not have the services and facilities to support a large-scale housing development like this; nor is there any practical prospect of additional capacity being created that would be sufficient to make this a sustainable development.

3. Flooding has become a more frequent and more severe problem in Hurst over the past ten years, due to the lack of effective drainage capacity, and the poor state of repair of much of the drainage system, including the key pumping station at Twyford Brook. Building 99 new houses, on a field that floods annually, would only add significantly to this problem. Flooding causes material economic damage, with travel disrupted, cars damaged, and roads needing to be repaired.

4. Wokingham Borough does not need to build houses in Hurst. The new plan published recently identifies other, sustainable locations at which housing can be built to meet the housing needs of the Borough. This plan explicitly excludes new development in Hurst.

For all of these reasons I oppose this application and request that it is refused.