

c/o 37 Stoatley Rise,

Haslemere,

Surrey,

GU271AG.

9 August 2017

Planning Department,

Waverley Borough Council,

The Burys,

GODALMING. BY EMAIL

Dear Sirs,

Application 2017/1196

Barfold Farm, Haslemere.

The Haslemere Society has objected to the many previous planning applications for the use of Barfold Farm based on the fundamental principle of establishing a commercial operation on land protected by the ANOB and AGLV designations. The grounds for our objections are that the applications would adversely affect the sanctity and tranquillity of the location. The Society objects to this current planning application for the same fundamental reasons and reinforces this with the following points :-

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1) The applicant claims that Waverley Borough Council’s failure to properly monitor and carry out visits and inspections is an adequate reason for withdrawing certain planning conditions and obligations, which were an integral part of the original approval. We contend that any such failure cannot be a valid reason for withdrawal. However, we urge the Council to fulfil its obligations, which were made clear by the Planning Inspector.

2) Since these conditions were stipulated by the Planning Inspector, we question whether the Local Authority has the authority to modify or cancel these.

3) The applicant makes no attempt to differentiate the approved practice matches from the so-called charity matches for which it is seeking permission. The Applicant has neither specified the charities involved nor stated whether they are registered with The Charities Commission. A nominal financial charitable contribution by Cortium to qualify a match as a ‘Charity Match’ should not of itself be acceptable. If Cortium wish to stage a match in support of a charity then we contend this should be one of the annually permitted matches.

4) Reference is made to visitors exceeding 100 but no upper limit is stated and there is no mention of the inevitable increase in the number of vehicles entering and leaving the site greater than the 50 that are allowed. This cannot be approved because of the unmanageable and chaotic conditions that it would create.

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5) The applicant has previously stated that those attending matches would only be family and friends. Now he is trying to attract an increased number of the wider public. The applicant’s ambitions are made entirely clear by the recent public advertisement (subsequently withdrawn following WBC’s intervention) by Cortium Sports to hold an international one day World Series event at Barfold Farm for sponsors and corporate and private groups in total contravention of the planning conditions.

The Haslemere Society considers that this application is yet another attempt to increase the commercial use of the polo facility beyond the permission granted and in a way that is unacceptable in a protected location designated AONB and AGLV. This application should be strongly resisted.

Yours faithfully,

John Greer (Vice Chairman, The Haslemere Society)

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