

c/o 45 Petworth Road
Haslemere
GU27 2HZ

Head of Planning Services
Waverley Borough Council
Council Offices
The Burys
Godalming
Surrey GU7 1HR

29 November 2019

Dear Sir,

WA/2019/1692 Longdene House, Haslemere

Objection to the application

The Haslemere Society (THS) wishes strongly to object to the above application for two reasons.

First, we object on the basis that the proposed new building is materially larger in both footprint and height than the buildings which it is to replace and that it is therefore both inappropriate to the site and not in line with the outline planning permission already granted.

Our second objection is materially the same as our second objection to WA/2019/1492, that this application involves only a small part of the site covered by the outline planning permission so that it is not possible to understand how the wider context of the development. We consider that both the earlier application and this one propose buildings that are larger and less in keeping with the buildings they replace than is foreseen in the outline planning permission. Our concern is that, while on a case by case basis the larger scale may seem not wholly unreasonable, taken together the introduction of these larger and more modern-looking buildings will significantly impair the visual amenity of the site. The fact that the site is both a nationally important AONB and a designated Special Green Area makes this issue particularly important.

This is a matter of principle and of precedent. The Council has a duty both to local residents and to the nation as a whole to protect the AONB. It is hard to see how they can properly discharge this duty if each planning decision must be made as a standalone, without a proper understanding of the overall picture. Nor does it seem unreasonable to ask the developer holding the outline permission to submit a single application covering the whole site in respect of the reserved matters. As we mentioned in the objection to the previous application, that does not prevent the developer from undertaking the building works in

tranches but would allow the Council to properly assess the proposals. A single application approach would also avoid any potential confusion from incompatible applications.

As before, we note that the second objection has wider implications for other planning applications in the Waverley area and consider this to be of critical importance given the nature of the landscape here both in terms of its visual beauty and its biodiversity and importance for wildlife.

Kind regards

Sonja Dullaway

On behalf of The Planning Group,
The Haslemere Society