



By email to:  
Planning Department,  
Waverley Borough Council,  
The Burys,  
Godalming,  
GU7 1HR.

5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Sir,

**Planning Application WA 2019/0337**  
**Longdene House Areas B/C/D**

This letter is to clarify our earlier comments dated 29<sup>th</sup> March which is shown below for reference with the relevant sections highlighted.

In our initial letter we commented that our previous objections appeared satisfied by the Application No. WA 2019/0337 whereby the development was limited to conversion of Longdene House back into a family home and limited development of just three new homes elsewhere on the site.

However, we are reminded that there is an outstanding Appeal relating to Application No. WA/2018/0151 for a development of 45 houses which is not scheduled to be heard until September 2019. Having made it clear that our initial comment on the current application was based on limited changes to the site, with the outstanding Appeal in September and the overarching change of use application, CR/2019/0005 which is in force and relates to the possible conversion of Longdene House into 14 flats, we wish to amend our initial comment from supportive to cautionary as follows:

Our initial comments on 29<sup>th</sup> March were based upon the assumption that there will be no further housing development in the vicinity of Longdene House and that the current application WA 2019/0337 – Areas B/C/D is now the only potential development plan for the site.

On all previous applications for this site we have emphasised our concerns about the impact on the environment and AONB status of any material development and its impact on the extremely inadequate road access to this location and the unsustainable additional pressure on the local area.

Therefore, given the current status of a pending Appeal for a much larger development (WA 2018/0151) and the overarching change of use for conversion to flats (CR 2019/005) which remains in force we withdraw our earlier comments and **request that all planning decisions on the site are suspended, or if necessary are refused, until such time as the Appeal outcome for WA 2018/0151 is known.** Then, and only then, can all parties properly assess the likely impact on the local area and proceed accordingly.

Yours Faithfully,

Haslemere Society Planning Group

### **Text of Letter 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

The Haslemere Society (Society) has commented adversely on previous applications for this site on the basis that it, like all other civic societies, has a responsibility to preserve and enhance the character of the town and its heritage. This is particularly relevant to Haslemere given the numerous locations within it and the surrounding area which are designated AONB and AGLV.

This hybrid application appears to have recognised our previous concerns – particularly those made in respect of applications WA 2017/0727 and WA 2017/2296 which proposed, respectively, over development of the site and demolition of Longdene House.

These design principles in these applications were diametrically opposed to the provisions and protections contained within the policies and guidelines underpinning AONB and AGLV and would have had a materially negative impact on the character of the town.

Therefore, we support the principles in this current application WA 2019/0337 proposing the refurbishment of Longdene House to become a family home and the erection of three new family dwellings on the site. **This proposal addresses our previous concerns regarding over development of the entire site creating unwelcome traffic congestion in the immediate area and pressure on the local infrastructure.**

However, we note the 'hybrid' nature of the planning application and whilst the design for the refurbishment of Longdene House (Area C) now appears to be firm, for Areas B and D the Design and Access Statement makes clear that these are *'illustrative only with layout, scale and appearance being reserved for determination later'*.

**Therefore, the Society reserves the right to comment further in the event that there is a material change to the layout, design or appearance to any of the proposed constructions and we urge Waverley Planning Department to be vigilant in this matter to ensure there is no subsequent conflict with the declared design principles which are now sympathetic to the site and the local area.**

Yours Faithfully,

Haslemere Society Planning Group