



Ms Aisosa Charles-Enoma  
The Planning Inspectorate  
By email

15 January 2024

Dear Sir

Re: APP/R3650/W/23/3327643 & WA/2022/01887

I am writing on behalf of The Haslemere Society. We are one of Haslemere's oldest civic groups and one of the largest, having some 500 members who care deeply about the town and the countryside around it.

I am sorry that we were unaware of the session you arranged to engage with local views about this application and that we therefore did not have an opportunity to put these points to you in person. We have set out our concerns about this proposed development in a submission to the Inquiry, which I know you will have read, but I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate what we feel are the most important matters.

Our primary objection is that the site sits within a National Landscape and deservedly so, since it truly is an area of outstanding natural beauty. The site itself is very lovely and it forms part of the characteristic attractiveness of the town as seen on an approach from the south, where the open field and woods behind are visible through the trees along the 'green tunnel' of the Midhurst Road. Both these aspects would be lost if the development were to be permitted, since the proposal would involve a significant number of trees being felled along this road. The area also forms part of the green buffer around Haslemere, which is a great part of the town's charm, both visually and in terms of the peace and darkness it brings. The site is also important for biodiversity both in itself and because of the connection it allows between other sites. Our previous submission explains our concerns with the BNG claims made in the application. The loss of this green site would thus be significant in a number of ways.

In addition to this key point, there are a series of practical concerns, as set out in our earlier submission to the Inquiry, including the probable increase in road traffic and congestion and the demand for public services. There are also real concerns about water provision, given the number of times that the local community has already suffered low water pressure or simply no water at all during recent summers. Many of these adverse impacts cannot be mitigated by CIL money.

The site is also, of course, outside the settlement boundary so that development here is contrary to the current Neighbourhood Plan, the status of which has been strengthened by

recent changes to the NPPF. That, and the high level of letters of objection to the proposal, must make it clear that the proposed development is contrary to the expressed wishes of the local community.

Yours Sincerely

S. Dullaway (by email)  
(on behalf of The Haslemere Society)