

Sent:

19 December 2025 10:47

Subject:

HOMES ENGLAND WEST OF IFIELD APPLICATION MUST BE WITHDRAWN FOR NOT MEETING BASIC DEMOCRATIC PLANNING STANDARDS

Attachments:

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Categories:

Comments Received

[HOMES ENGLAND WEST OF IFIELD APPLICATION MUST BE WITHDRAWN FOR NOT MEETING BASIC DEMOCRATIC PLANNING STANDARDS](#)

Dear Editor,

Homes England's West of Ifield planning application must now be formally withdrawn because it does not meet the most basic democratic planning standards.

This is a developer-led, speculative application being unilaterally forced through - without a sound or legally compliant Local Plan in place, without the support of the local parish community, and without the consent of Crawley Borough Council. That alone places it firmly outside the principles that underpin the democratic planning system.

Planning in this country is meant to be plan-led and evidence-based. What we are seeing instead is a national housing agency - a government quango - acting as if it were a private master developer, attempting to push through a masterplan before the democratic planning framework has been agreed, examined or adopted. That is not how democracy works.

Crucially, the application is also being advanced in the face of serious and unresolved objections, including those raised by Gatwick Airport Ltd on safety, infrastructure and operational grounds, and by Crawley Borough Council on planning, sustainability and cross-boundary impacts. To proceed regardless is blind, irresponsible recklessness - and it undermines not just public confidence in the planning system, but also democracy itself.

As Thomas Paine - who lived in Sussex - said 250 years ago today [Dec 19 1776]: *"These are the times that try men's souls"*.

Local people are entitled to ask: who is this monstrous development actually for, and who is in control? When a State agency presses ahead with a masterplan that lacks a lawful Local Plan context, disregards local opposition, and ignores critical infrastructure and safety concerns, it is an abuse and misuse of power - without accountability and legitimacy and with immunity and impunity.

If democratic planning is to mean anything, this application must be withdrawn. The next step is clear: pause, return to a properly examined Local Plan process, respect local decision-making, and only then consider development proposals that are genuinely sustainable, lawful and community-supported.

Anything less sets a dangerous precedent, not just for the Parish of Ifield - but for all parishes and communities...and democracy.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

The Ifield Society

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[REDACTED]

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DEMOCRACY IS NOT OPTIONAL



**WITHDRAW
WEST OF IFIELD**



PLAN-LED. NOT POWER-LED.

**HOMES ENGLAND MUST MEET
DEMOCRATIC PLANNING STANDARDS**

THE IFIELD SOCIETY
