

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 September 2025 14:44
To: Planning
Subject: FAO Jason Hawkes Planning Objection DC/25/1312

Categories: Comments Received

Dear Sir

I object to planning application DC/25/1312 West of Ifield for the following planning reasons:-

Firstly, as a member of Ifield Golf Club for 28 years I am appalled that the plans to build schools and 3000 houses continue to be discussed when the Government Inspector had previously thrown this out for good reasons last year.

Ifield Golf Club has been in existence for 98 years, providing recreation solace to thousands and thousands of Golfers over that period of ALL ages and genders. This is NOT a club that has seen degradation of numbers and indeed has continued to be played by people from all over the county and beyond, recognised as one of the best courses in Sussex.

Golf Courses in the immediate vicinity are continuing to be decimated. Rusper Closed, Hassocks Closed, West Chiltington Closed, Redhill and Reigate Closed, Haywards Heath under exit, Horsham Golf & Fitness approved for closure (in the same direct plan), Hole reduction approvals for Mannings Heath and Cotesmore with Gatton Manor also changing use. All the aforementioned within 25 minutes of Ifield. This destruction of courses for housing and other business profiteering activities must be stopped.

Over the last few years and quoting the findings of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraph 99 Homes England's inability to find Ifield Golf Course surplus to requirements and their inadequate mitigation in supplying the Golf Club with equal or better-quality alternative facilities completely confirms the position that Ifield Golf Club is a thriving club for members and guests. This plan is simply ignoring this fact.

In addition, we must also consider the fact that over the last 40 years , the golfing world has worked hard to remove the 'elite' tag that was applied to Golf Clubs during the 70s and 80s where the more wealthier were considered to be the only people who were entitled to play the game. The removal of so many clubs in the local area will only result in one thing which will once again make the game untenable for so many young and older people and that will be the increased cost of Green Fees and Memberships - as clubs become full they will soon realize that pricing increases are something they can do at a whim with £60 - £100 rounds becoming common place. As a result, a high number of juniors and potential talent of the future will simply not play the game as it will become too expensive to do so locally. Closing a club with the heritage and footfall as Ifield Golf Club will simply have a significant increase on this foregone impact.

I have heard that the new Plan will offer a wider range of sporting facilities that people can all enjoy. That sounds remarkably similar to the Bewbush Leisure Centre that was developed only a few miles away in the 80s.... and what happened to the Centre and the Pitches.... all now covered with housing!!

We should also remember that building sports facilities such as 4G pitches and Padel / Tennis Courts and the like is great for the younger and active population - I agree.... but being an ex-Sussex County League footballer I can confirm that as we age past those days, a significant number of people who want to continue to play sport have moved into Golf which is a game many are fortunate to be active in and play through to their 70s / 80s and in some cases beyond. What does the above development do for these people of whom there are millions across the country???... absolutely nothing. Inactivity is well documented to increase health risks and therefore without the 6 mile walks around the club on a regular basis I fear the NHS can but only see further pressure as a result.

There are many other aspects of the plan that have to be called into question, how can we continue to increase housing locally when every year we continue to be in a drought within the South-East? There is simply not enough water and **no plan to build more reservoirs**. Is that a sensible approach in the short term - 99% of people with any common sense would say not.

Additional Schools? The School in the new Kilnwood Vale development within the historically Horsham Plan is not even full so why on earth do they need to build more?

Finally, does the 'Housing Crisis' actually consider what is happening in the South-East? The greed of developers together with massively over inflated house prices locally only results in one thing for families in that the next generation of Sons and Daughters cannot afford to live in their own towns and are forced to move away. The 'Supply and Demand' fabrication does not and will not address this and I have no doubt that the further 3000 houses of 2, 3 and 4 Bedroom statuses proposed in the Plan will not be offered to the local market for less than £150k start point will they? - so will be of no help to the future local generation whatsoever in trying to purchase. The supply pricing will never be controlled and therefore of no help at all.

It is for these reasons, I respectfully urge Horsham District Council to refuse this hybrid planning application.

Yours Sincerely

4 Barnside Avenue
Burgess Hill
West Sussex
RH15 0JU

[REDACTED]