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Planning Received	
18 SEP 2025	
Name:	
Ref:	DC/25/1312

Horsham District Council
Albery House
Springfield Road
Horsham
W Sussex
RH12 2GB
14/09/25

Dear Sirs

PLANNING APPLICATION - LAND WEST OF IFIELD - REF NO DC/25/1312

I write to add my objections to the many you will have already received from Ifield and near Ifield residents, in respect of the proposal to, amongst other things, build three thousand new houses on land which includes that on which Ifield Golf Course sits. My interest in this plan is as a member of Ifield Golf Club, which I have been for more than twenty years.

I have had the benefit of reading a number of the letters sent to you and do not propose to detail arguments I know have already been set out, but I will just precis as follows:

there will be a loss of a popular local golf course that has

- a rising numbers of members
- is a not for profit, members club
- and which services a more than local community
- with no planned adequate replacement

which I believe to be contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework (para 99). It is worth adding that a proposal to increase local population that is not matched by increased sporting leisure opportunities is necessarily detrimental to that population.

The loss of Ifield Golf Club will not be offset by the very inadequate suggestions of investing more in such local facilities as Tilgate, Goffs Park, or Rookwood. In my opinion there would need to be a like-for-like replacement in order to offset the loss of Ifield, and even if there was to be a new course provided, it would completely lack the maturity that Ifield's near 100 years has achieved.

Similarly, should my golf course be shut and built on and not replaced, there will be a loss of social community, because the membership will be scattered as they seek similar opportunities. Such opportunities are scarce, particularly for affordable membership. The scattering of the members will, I'm sure, come as a considerable blow to many of our older members, and in fact may lead to them giving up golf altogether, which for many of them is more a social interaction. I am concerned that in considering the impact of the planning application, the welfare and health issues of our membership and others who use our facilities have been given scant attention.

Finally, whilst I can appreciate that matters in connection with the flora and fauna that flourish on our golf course may carry little weight compared to the human impact, I do wonder whether the Council really understands what an oasis the golf course is. It has multiple habit types; a wide variety of trees and shrubs; many species of birds (the only place locally where I see mistle thrushes, for example); larger fauna (though we could do without the [REDACTED]); and a very significant variety of insect life.

I expect the developers will say that some of the mature grounds will be left as open space, but significant diversity will be irretrievably lost. We have at least two types of orchids on the course, but what are the chances of those surviving development? I would say nil, and that goes for many other elements of the wildlife that calls Ifield Golf Club home.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]