

[REDACTED]

Rectory Farmhouse Annex

Ifield Road

Ifield RH11 0NN

12. 10. 25

Dear Mr Hawes

**Subject: Planning Application DC/25/1312 West of Ifield Hybrid Application.**

I am writing, as a resident of Ifield, to strongly object to this planning proposal which has the potential to harm the health and wellbeing of this community as well as having a catastrophic effect on the flora and fauna. Ifield is the last remaining country area for Crawley town and as such acts as the lungs of Crawley, soaking up carbon and producing clean oxygen rich air through its wide range of trees, shrubs and hedgerows. The Health Foundation (11.07 24) found in their research linking health to the green spaces available found that the quality of the green space brings both physical and mental health benefits and was significant in increasing life expectancy.' Quality' was defined as the frequency of use of the green space by the population. It is very clear that the golf course with its 500 members and more than 1000 visitors annually is high quality green space as is the conservation area with its myriads of walkers and runners daily.

I quote "Whilst often overlooked in urban and development conservations, open spaces play a crucial role in creating sustainable, liveable cities by providing environmental balance, supporting community well-being and offering psychological respite from the demands of modern urban life"

The open space offered in your plan falls far short of the quality of provision of the green space currently enjoyed by Crawley residents.

Ifield is a village of historic significance which can be traced back to the Doomsday book. At its heart, sitting within the Conservation Area, are 3 historic buildings which interconnect to provide an important social hub, the 13<sup>th</sup> century Church of St Margarets, the unique 70-seater Barn Theatre (converted from an ancient working barn in the last century and the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Plough Inn, Although there is no suggestion that these buildings will be destroyed, the environment in which they are situated will be significantly changed with modern houses being built within 25 metres of this beautiful 13<sup>th</sup> century church. There is a statutory duty 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and conservation areas} Act1990 to have special regard to the desirability of preserving buildings OR their settings

Another jewel in the crown of this lovely country village is its stunning, well-maintained golf course giving continual pleasure and physical fitness to thousands who use it for sports and leisure, from within the village and further afield. It has been a major feature of Ifield for almost a century. A major contributor to the health and wellbeing of so many. It is ludicrous to suggest that a few playing fields will replace its immense value. Even Horsham's own report in 2022 on Golf supply and demand stated that ALL local facilities were needed. Closing this golf course would therefore breach the National Planning Policy Framework (clause 104)

In addition to the value to the people, this village through its conservation area, woodland, fields and golf course supports a wide range of wildlife, much of which is already in decline nationally .... crested newts, birds of prey, Red Kites, Buzzards, kestrels and Sparrowhawks. Waterfowl, herons, little egrets as well as tawny owls little owls and yellowhammers. The loss of their habitat will further hasten their decline. it is ludicrous to suggest that covering large swathes of the incredible countryside could possibly lead to a 10 % increase in biodiversity.

There are many other issues in your planning application which cause me concern; the lack of adequate infrastructure to accommodate this massive growth on population, the pressure of traffic on these local country roads and increased flooding and the lack of co-operation with Crawley Borough Council The list goes on. Time prevents me from saying more but I am confident that many other residents will have addressed these issues in detail.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to refuse this hybrid planning application.

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted]