

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 December 2025 23:49
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: FURTHER OBJECTIONS TO HOMES ENGLAND'S WEST OF IFIELD PLANNING APPLICATION IN THE LIGHT OF CRAWLEY OBSERVER'S ARTICLES IN 2007 AND 2019
Categories: Comments Received

THE BATTLE FOR THE SOUL OF IFIELD

Eighteen years of documented threat.

Crawley Observer

August 15, 2007

WREATHS LAID FOR THREATENED GOLF COURSE

Wreaths laid for threatened golf course

by Stech Baldods

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← AUGUST 15, 2019 →

2007 – Crawley Observer

2019 Homes England plans £3bn
Crawley garden village

Estates Gazette

April 2019

Homes England plans £3bn Crawley garden village

Homes England agrees to acquire
160 acres at Ifield Golf Club



IFIELD
GOLF CLUB

Dear Jason Hawkes

I am writing in connection with the West of Ifield proposals and, in particular, the proposed loss of Ifield Golf Club.

I wish to place on record a matter of material planning history which, in my view, requires explicit consideration in any officer assessment, recommendation, or decision notice.

Public concern regarding the potential loss of Ifield Golf Club is not recent, speculative, or reactive. It has been formally and contemporaneously documented for nearly two decades. An article published in the Crawley Observer on 15 August 2007, entitled “Wreaths laid for threatened golf course” (by Stacia Baldock), records symbolic public protest against prospective redevelopment of Ifield Golf and Country Club and confirms that, even at that time, the land was being discussed in connection with housing allocation and associated infrastructure. This establishes early and explicit community concern about the long-term implications of development pressure on the site.

That concern was subsequently borne out at a strategic and national level. On 29 July 2019, the Estates Gazette reported (“Homes England plans £3bn Crawley garden village”, by Emma Rosser) that Homes England had agreed to acquire approximately 160 acres at Ifield Golf Club as part of a £3 billion garden village proposal. By that point, development pressure had clearly moved beyond conjecture and into state-led land assembly and master-planning.

Taken together, these contemporaneous records demonstrate a clear and continuous trajectory: early community alarm (2007), followed by strategic acquisition and planning by a government body (2019), culminating in the current proposals. This continuity is a material consideration in assessing cumulative harm to landscape character, heritage setting, and community value, and it engages directly with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, including paragraphs 92 (social and recreational facilities), 174 (intrinsic character of the countryside), and 185 (heritage assets and their settings).

I would therefore ask that this long-documented continuity of threat and opposition be explicitly acknowledged and addressed within officer reports and any subsequent recommendations, rather than the proposals being assessed as an isolated or newly emergent circumstance. Failure to do so risks under-weighting cumulative harm and mischaracterising the planning history of the site.

I should be grateful if you would confirm that this material evidence will be taken into account as part of the authority’s assessment.

Please consider this letter as another objection to Homes England’s West of Ifield speculative planning application - where it is becoming increasingly clear such an application must now be withdrawn or rejected.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

The Ifield Society

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