
Sent:

22 January 2026 17:07

To:

Planning

Subject:

DC/25/2057

Categories:

Comments Received

To the Planning Officer

Re: Application DC/25/2057 by Miller Homes. Land north of Little Slaughterford, Chapel Road, Barns Green.

I wish to submit my strong objections to the above proposed development by Miller Homes of 68 houses on land north of Little Slaughterford, Chapel Road, Barns Green.

I have been a resident of Sandhills Road in Barns Green for over 50 years. When the Ashmiles was built Berkeley Homes produced a Sales Brochure describing Barns Green as the Quintessential English Village. They were correct. It is.

Our Village Community got together to produce a Neighbourhood Plan which was accepted. I was fortunate to participate in compiling some of this. Extensive research was done on every aspect of the area. There was no mention whatsoever of any development at Little Slaughterford. Building at Sumners Pond was agreed and is taking place, but it seems that the slow uptake of the sale of the houses and the fact that they are relying on diesel generators, seems to confirm the fact that, together with the Ashmiles, Barns Green is large enough.

The development proposed by Miller Homes is totally unacceptable for many reasons:

The site is situated in an area surrounded by ancient woodland, footpaths and ancient buildings. We are fortunate to have retained a history going back for over 1000 years. We have an impressive number of well kept Grade 2 listed houses, we have a village green, cricket pitch, a pub and shop and an ancient church nearby which can be approached by a secluded leafy walk. We have many quiet walks. Research carried out for the Neighbourhood Plan revealed many important wildlife corridors around Barns Green which have been used for centuries. These are listed in the Domesday Book. Research also brought to light an astonishing diversity of wildlife and fauna. The area which is part of the Adur Valley has multiple underground streams, ancient hedgerows and very old trees. Over so many years remaining untouched, nature has its own way of working out the most efficient ways of dealing with its environmental needs. It's only when we interfere that everything changes and has a knock-on effect elsewhere.

May I refer HDC to the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website: Protected Landscapes to be strengthened with new Legislation and Guidance to Protect Nature. Please take a look. It says that changes announced today will see more trees planted and goes on to say that what they propose is vital to the health of our ecosystem and our nation. They acknowledge that important habitats are being lost and that wildlife is in steep decline. The Gov intends that the new legislation will promote access to nature to

millions of people each year. They are committed to tackle Climate Change and acknowledge the "vital importance of natural landscapes to the nation, protecting us from flooding, celebrating our heritage and restoring our health and wellbeing".

The Environment Secretary Steve Reed says that so much of our countryside and wildlife are in decline so we must do more to protect it. To mark the 75th anniversary of the creation of National Parks, the government will introduce new laws to boost protections for the natural world and increase the opportunity for more people to be outdoors. There is so much on this website well worth reading, but in essence it recognises the importance the environment for our mental and physical health.

In all the years I have lived here we have never, until recently, had a problem with flooding. This is because, up until now fields have been able to drain off excess water into the streams and rivers coping as they have done for many years. Unfortunately the excessive development of the entire Horsham area and its surrounding villages has taken so much of the land, felling thousands of ancient trees which could drink up the water, and removing vital hedgerows. Local drainage on the estates is not enough. It might keep the local residents dry but the water ends up somewhere else. Removing ancient hedges and mature trees and planting token saplings is not the answer. It's vital to protect marchlands and floodplains.

Barns Green has an ongoing problem with sewage which has never been properly addressed. I understand that at times there is a horrific amount of sewage being produced. Another 68 dwellings? The situation will be intolerable.

The developer's practice of netting hedgerows and trees to prevent birds from nesting?? It's an outrage! There is a LAW already in place to protect hedges. It is an offence for anyone to cut hedges between March and September. How can developers manipulate the LAW for their own financial benefit preventing the birds from using the habitats they have used for generations? Many years ago when farmers removed hedges they soon realised their mistake and began a programme of re-planting them to protect crops and stop soil erosion. The hedges in question at this site are hundreds of years old. Fields built over are gone forever.

Traffic, parking and road safety:

68 more households? One or two cars per household? Unfortunately we do need cars if we live in Barns Green because there is no public transport to speak of. Doctors surgeries at Southwater, Billingshurst and Horsham, dentists...you need a car to get to them. Christ's Hospital station: you need a car because there are no buses which coincide with train times and you can't get home either. Taxis coming from Horsham or Billingshurst are too expensive. In fact, without a car we are stranded. So now the roads through Barns Green are being badly damaged by the massively increased volume of traffic. Cars are speeding through with no concern for the speed limit at the entrance to the village. They have no regard for children, dog walkers, horse riders or elderly people. We have tried parking cars strategically to slow them down but to no avail. Lorries are thundering through eroding the grass verges. When the roads are flooded, which is often, the water flows like a fast running stream. We have many resident videos to uphold this.

Our village has a small school, old pub and a shop and Post Office. We are very fortunate, but unfortunately we may be in danger of losing some of this if the development goes ahead opposite the pub and shop. It's already difficult to park there and difficult to see oncoming traffic. It's also an area which gets very flooded. So parking and road safety will be a nightmare. Developers have said they will divert the culvert?? They will send the water elsewhere. It already gets flooded under the railway bridge.

I urge you, HDC, to take a look at the Gov website regarding the new legislation to protect the countryside and I ask you this: Why do people want to come to Barns Green? It's because it is a charming village with character. It's a peaceful place to enjoy the pleasures of the countryside, to unwind and to re-charge ones batteries. People do not want to stroll round a Housing development and see parked cars and refuse bins. We invite people to come to our village and to respect it's tranquil charm. Last summer I had a visit from the adult grandchildren of the people who built my house. They say they come to Barns Green from London every year to watch the cricket as their grandad did and to visit the local church. They commented how wonderful it was that Barns Green has changed so little.

PLEASE HDC say NO to Miller Homes and allow Barns Green to remain a Village for generations to come.

Thank you.

██████████ White Gates, Sandhills Road, Barns Green.