

[REDACTED]

Sent: 22 September 2025 10:58
To: Planning
Subject: West of Ifield planning application ref: DC/25/1312

Categories: Comments Received

For the attention of Jason Hawkes - Case Officer.

Dear Mr Hawkes

I am writing to object to the planning application DC/25/1312 submitted by Homes England for the West of Ifield development which includes the potential closure of Ifield Golf Course.

I have been a member at Ifield Golf Club for over 40 years and am looking forward to celebrating our Centenary in 2027.

Recent Golf course closures in our area at West Chiltington, Rusper, Redhill and Reigate, Effingham Park, the recently approved redevelopment of Horsham Golf and Fitness together with the reduction in holes at Mannings Heath and Cottesmore, plus Gatton Manor who have applied for change of use, so yet another closure is imminent. In total this represents the closure of 117 holes of golf in an area already under provided.

Homes England have already admitted that that under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraph 99 Ifield Golf Course is not surplus to requirements. So in accordance with the NPPF their only approach is to apply for Mitigation in supplying us with equal or better - quality alternative facilities.

Well the mitigation they are proposing falls well short of this requirement. To compensate for the loss of Ifield golf course they are proposing to spend limited money on Tilgate Golf Course (a municipal course owned by Crawley Borough Council), Goffs Park, which is a pitch and putt venue in a park open only in the summer and Rookwood Golf Course. None of these are anywhere near the quality of Ifield and it would take considerable investment by Homes England to comply with the NPPF.

Ifield Golf Club is a thriving members club with 582 members which includes a good junior section, an ever increasing intermediate section - 19 to 40 year olds and a seniors section of around 140 members. We can't be absorbed into other clubs as most are full with waiting lists.

Currently over 30,000 rounds of golf are played annually at Ifield and there are insufficient courses locally to absorb those potentially lost rounds.

We have over 80 visiting societies annually with many of them raising money for local charities. The estimated figure is around [REDACTED] to charities such as Crawley Autism Society, St Catherines Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Our golf course is used to hold prestigious County competitions for both Sussex Golf Union and Sussex Golf Captains and in fact this year we hosted the Sussex Senior Open Championship.

Our facilities are used by local residents for Wedding receptions, Wakes, special anniversaries and parties on a regular basis.

We have 7 flats on the premises which will result in the occupants having to find alternative accommodation and 25 staff that will be made redundant.

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

Regards

[REDACTED]

6 Stonecourt Close

Horley

Surrey