

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Sent:

12 February 2026 12:34

To:

[Redacted]

Subject:

"WILL THE WEST OF IFIELD BULLDOZERS BE PARKED UP FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE?"

Attachments:

thumbnail - 2026-02-11T104235.113.jpg

Categories:

Comments Received

"WILL THE WEST OF IFIELD BULLDOZERS BE PARKED UP FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE?"



Letter to the editor: Will the West of Ifield bulldozers be parked up fo...

Richard W Symonds

The recent cancellation of the exploratory meeting in the Horsham Local Plan Examination has prompted a simple q...

Dear BBC Team

The recent cancellation of the exploratory meeting in the Horsham Local Plan Examination has prompted a simple question: will the West of Ifield bulldozers now be parked up for the foreseeable future?

A Local Plan can only proceed if it is found to be sound and legally compliant by the Planning Inspector. Exploratory meetings are scheduled when an Inspector considers a plan sufficiently settled to structure the examination. Cancelling such a meeting suggests that this threshold has not yet been met.

West of Ifield is a 'load-bearing' allocation within the Plan. If unresolved issues remain regarding its justification, assessment of alternatives, infrastructure, heritage impacts or deliverability, then the examination cannot sensibly proceed until those matters are clarified.

That procedural pause matters. Homes England's speculative planning application relies on the strategic context of the Local Plan. If the allocation itself is under heightened scrutiny, it would be surprising for any major development to move forward smoothly in the meantime.

This does not mean that West of Ifield has been rejected. Nor does it mean that development will never happen. But it does mean that inevitability has been punctured. Process, evidence and legality still govern what happens next.

Until those tests are satisfied, it is entirely reasonable to ask whether the bulldozers will remain parked up — not out of obstructionism, but because the planning system requires decisions of this scale to be properly justified before they proceed.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

The Ifield Society

2 Lychgate Cottage

Ifield Street, Ifield Village

Crawley, West Sussex

RH11 0NN

[Redacted contact information]

[Redacted contact information]

**WILL THE WEST OF IFIELD
BULLDOZERS BE PARKED UP
FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE?**

