

[REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2025 09:20

To: Jason.Hawkes [REDACTED] Ruth.Fletcher

[REDACTED]
Cc: Len.Ellis-Brown [REDACTED]; Jay.Mercer [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; Scouts District Commissioner

[REDACTED]
Subject: Social facilities for young people on new housing developments

Dear Mr Hawkes,

I am writing to you on behalf of Horsham District Scouts to express our concern that recent planning applications for large-scale housing developments do not, in our opinion, reflect the need for facilities for young people to socialise. Recent examples include planning applications DC/25/1312 (3000 homes on land West of Ifield) and DC/25/0629 (Former Novartis site in Horsham). You will have received our submission on the former and I am presently preparing our comments on the latter.

In both cases the applicant makes no mention of social facilities for children and young people living and growing up on their proposed developments. They make provision for Education and sports facilities but that is not sufficient for the needs of young people who require places to meet and socialise.

Indications are that for every 10 families there will be one youngster who wants to be a Scout (or Girl Guide). So for 3000 homes there could eventually be over 300 children who need facilities for miscellaneous activities. Not all will want to be Scouts but a large proportion will and they will need somewhere to meet. In short we need Scout 'huts'!

The term 'hut' is a misnomer for their local meeting place and I can let you have details of what we consider as minimum provision.

Historically many Scout Groups were sponsored by churches or other organisations. This will not apply to new housing developments on 'green-field' sites. They will need buildings and experience has shown that sharing such building with other organisations is very difficult in practice. Again I can provide further briefing about this aspect.

I trust that you and the Planning Committee will include this matter when considering applications for large housing developments. Please contact me if you need further information.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

With regard to DC/25/1312, the planning portal would, for some unknown reason, not accept my E-mail address [REDACTED] for registration purposes. You might like to ask your IT department about that.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED] (on behalf of Horsham District Scouts).

Address: 2 Millais, Horsham, RH13 6BS
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

