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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2026 21:26
To: Planning
Subject: Concerns Regarding Consultation Process and Barriers to Resident Engagement – Kilnwood Vale (S106/26/0021)

Categories: Comments Received

Dear Planning Team,

I hope you are well. I am writing regarding the Deed of Variation application S106/26/0021 for Kilnwood Vale and to raise concerns about several issues that have affected residents' ability to participate meaningfully in the consultation process.

According to the planning portal, the public consultation period runs from **14 July to 23 July**. However, Colgate Parish Council submitted their response on **2 July**, stating that they "make no comments." This was **before** the consultation opened and before any resident views could be gathered. With more than 1,400 occupied homes in Kilnwood Vale, this early submission has caused confusion and concern among residents who expected their Parish Council to represent their views during the consultation window.

In addition, significant communication barriers have prevented residents from accessing and sharing information about the proposal. The Kilnwood Vale Residents Facebook Group is the only large communication channel for the development. Unfortunately, important factual information, updates, and petitions relating to the Deed of Variation have not been permitted within the group. Several residents, including myself, were removed from the group shortly after attempting to share consultation-related information.

This has had a direct impact on the community's ability to:

- understand the implications of the proposed Variation,
- share concerns or evidence,
- participate in discussions with other residents,
- and engage meaningfully during the consultation period.

It has also prevented **meaningful information and community voice** from being shared at a time when transparency and resident engagement are essential.

Compounding this issue is the fact that one of the ward councillors for Colgate & Rusper, Councillor Hannah Butler, is also an administrator of the Kilnwood Vale Residents Group. Her dual role has created a conflict of interest, as actions taken in her capacity as administrator have restricted resident participation during a live consultation. A formal complaint has been logged with the Monitoring Officer regarding this matter, and I have been transparent in copying them into related correspondence.

Given these circumstances, I would be grateful if the Planning Department could advise:

1. How resident engagement will be ensured during the consultation period, given the communication barriers that have prevented information from reaching the wider community.
2. Whether the Parish Council's early "no comment" submission will be reconsidered in light of the consultation window and the lack of resident input prior to 14 July.
3. How the Planning Department intends to support fair and transparent participation for all residents affected by this proposal.

Kilnwood Vale is a rapidly growing community, and it is essential that residents have equitable access to information and a meaningful opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their development.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your guidance.

Kind regards, [REDACTED] Kilnwood Vale Resident and on behalf of concerned KV residents.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]