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Sent: 19 June 2026 06:03
To: Planning
Subject: Objection to Planning Application DC/25/2057

Categories: Comments Received



5 Six Acres Close, Barns Green, Horsham
West Sussex RH13 0PL

****Objection to Planning Application DC/25/2057**

Land North of Little Slaughterford, Chapel Road, Barns Green, West Sussex Proposed 68 Dwellings – Miller Homes**
I wish to register my **strong objection** to the above planning application. I urge Horsham District Council to **refuse this application** and to undertake a **thorough, independent investigation** into the true capacity and performance of the Barns Green Wastewater Treatment Works (WTW).

1. Southern Water's repeated claims of "sufficient capacity" are demonstrably inaccurate

Southern Water continue to assert that the Barns Green WTW has adequate capacity to accommodate additional flows. This is **misleading and contradicted by documented evidence**.

- There is a **recorded history of serious sewage overflows** from the Barns Green works into Parsons Brook and the wider watercourse network.
- These incidents are not isolated; they demonstrate **systemic overloading** of the existing plant.
- Independent expert assessments have shown that **even current flows exceed the realistic operating capacity** of the treatment works.

It is therefore **factually incorrect** for Southern Water to state that the works can accommodate the additional loading from 68 new dwellings.

2. The proposed development cannot be safely or legally accommodated

Given the existing performance issues, it is clear that the Barns Green WTW **cannot support further development** without causing:

- Increased frequency of untreated sewage discharges
- Further deterioration of local water quality
- Additional environmental harm to Parsons Brook and downstream river systems
- Potential breaches of environmental legislation and regulatory standards

Approving this application would knowingly place further pressure on an already failing system.

3. Southern Water's proposal to divert flows from Itchingfield is indefensible

Southern Water's latest suggestion that flows from the **closure of the Itchingfield WTW** and **Land North West of Southwater DC/26/0366** could be redirected to Barns Green is **incredible, illogical, and deeply concerning**.

If Southern Water genuinely believe Barns Green has capacity for both:

- 68 new dwellings **and**
- Additional flows from other catchment areas

then their assessments are **fundamentally flawed** and cannot be relied upon in the planning process.

This contradiction alone demonstrates that Southern Water's responses are **not robust, not evidence-based, and should not be used to inform planning decisions.**

4. The planning process must not be misled

Given the clear mismatch between Southern Water's statements and the documented operational reality of the Barns Green WTW, I urge Horsham District Council to:

- Treat Southern Water's capacity claims with **extreme caution**
- Require **independent verification** of treatment works capacity
- Consider the **environmental harm already occurring**
- Recognise that approving this development would **exacerbate an existing pollution problem**

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that new development does not worsen environmental conditions or overload failing infrastructure.

Conclusion

The Barns Green WTW is already **over capacity, polluting local watercourses, and unable to meet current demand.** Adding further loading from 68 new dwellings—alongside the extraordinary proposal to divert flows from Itchingfield and from the proposed development Land North West of Southwater —would be irresponsible and environmentally damaging.

For these reasons, I strongly urge Horsham District Council to **refuse planning application DC/25/2057.**

Kind Regards

