

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council FAO: Nicola Pettifer
FROM:	WSCC - Education
DATE:	21 June 2023
LOCATION:	Land To The West of Ashington C of E School Park Lane Ashington West Sussex
SUBJECT:	DC/23/0406 Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 180 dwellings, sports pavilion, sport pitches and allotments; with associated access, landscaping, open space and infrastructure.
DATE OF SITE VISIT:	n/a
RECOMMENDATION:	Objection
S106 CONTRIBUTION TOTAL:	

Developers are required to mitigate the impact of their proposed developments and, where appropriate, provide or make contributions towards site specific education provision where a specific need is identified arising from the impact of the development. School places are required in perpetuity to mitigate planned development. As the Local Education Authority (LEA) the County Council has the statutory duty to make or secure education provision available for each child in its area, and to provide or secure the provision of a school place for each child, within the local catchment area (being as close to the place of residence as is reasonably practicable) where possible. Schools should be provided close to where the need arises, to encourage sustainable travel behaviour and the wider benefits of being part of a local community. An inability to meet school places nearby could result in pupils being allocated spaces at a greater distance from their home, not in accordance with sustainable place making or education provision policy.

The requirement

Education requirements and commitments by the Planning Authority

The growth of Ashington requires additional educational provision, including primary school provision. West Sussex County Council (WSCC), as education authority, has advised that a minimum of 0.1 hectares of land adjoining the Ashington Primary School site, closest to the existing school buildings, is required to support the growth of the school by 0.5 forms of entry. However, this scale of growth would not represent the optimal operations requirement for school expansion. Additional land may therefore be required in order to provide further forms of entry depending on the requirements of the school. It is considered prudent and necessary, in order to retain primary education provision in its current location in the heart of the village adjacent to the Community Cluster, to safeguard land for potential school expansion. WSCC has advised that a further 0.44 hectares of safeguarded land, adjoining the existing school site, could enable future expansion if required (a total of 0.54 hectares).

Implications for this development

The requirements in the policy in the adopted Ashington Neighbourhood Plan [Ashington Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2031 \(horsham.gov.uk\)](https://www.horsham.gov.uk/ashington-neighbourhood-plan-2019-2031) policy ASH11 on pages 42 and 43 refers were based on 150 and the app is 180 Consequently, the County Council as LEA, objects to the planning application listed above for the reasons set out above.

Implications of absence of site allocation or provision

The County Council must reserve its position should the objections set out above not be addressed sufficiently and in line with the policies and commitments referred to. The following additional submission is made as a sub-optimal approach to mitigation but does not displace the position the County Council takes in relation to the impact of the development.

West Sussex County Council – Education Services