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Ms Kate Turner
Planning Department
Horsham District Council
Parkside
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By email only to [redacted] and planning@horsham.gov.uk

11th March 2025

Dear Kate

Planning Application Reference DC/24/0256
Parsons Field Stables, Pickhurst Lane, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DA

Further to our previous objection raised to the above application, there has been a material change in circumstances at the site which amplifies a concern previously raised.

We previously raised concerns that the proposed stabling would bring 3 further horses to the site, which the available acreage would not support. The British Horse Society recommends 1-1.5 acres of grazing land per horse. The existing stables on the land are not proposed to be demolished and therefore there would be at least 5 horses in total on the land if the application were approved, equating to a minimum requirement of 5 acres of grazing land.

At the time the application was submitted the available acreage was around 3 acres of grazing land, so deficient against the British Horse Society's standards.

You will be aware that part of the applicant's land holding has recently been subject to unauthorized works which have reduced the amount of grazing land available to around 1.2 acres. Whilst one of the existing stable buildings appears to have been demolished as part of the unauthorized works, one still remains. On the basis of 4 horses on the site, each would have just 0.3 acres of land for exercising and grazing which is significantly below the minimum standard.

At the recent Committee meeting at which the application was considered it was suggested by officers that the applicant could address any deficiency with a horse walker. However, a horse walker is not proposed as part of the application and this would not in any case be a suitable remedy to the deficiency. The British Horse Society advises that it is essential for horses to '*have enough space to help reduce the chances of fighting where several animals are turned out together. Over-grazing, over-stocking and poor management can result in the pasture becoming 'horse sick'*.'

There are also no bridleways nearby, only footpaths, so opportunities to exercise horses off-site are also limited.

I understand the application is to be reconsidered at the next Committee meeting and would be grateful if this matter would be drawn to Councillors attention.

Yours sincerely

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