

PLANNING APPLICATION No: DM/25/2223

RE: PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO LAND AT SAINT HILL, EAST GRINSTEAD.

Dear Planning Committee Members,

[REDACTED]

Additionally, I lived within walking distance of the application site for 25 years, and always had a relationship, as part of the local community, supporting entertainment events, the annual bonfire event and so forth. I moved away from the Town to live in Crowborough, East Sussex but retained my connections, often attending events, which I still do, along with many other local and wider area Councillors.

I am writing to express my full support for the planned project at Saint Hill. I have seen many relevant documents and statistics relating to that, and feel strongly that what is proposed would significantly enhance the current situation at that location. The ground work would materially benefit the environment, while at the same time creating improved facilities for the benefit of the immediate and wider community. The proposed project would also positively impact the carbon footprint of the site.

It is widely known that the applicant is exceptionally committed to the local community, supporting all manner of charities. It also has a strong bond with neighbouring sporting facilities.

However, I am uncertain whether local councils or communities are aware of the real benefit of the annual conference and charity concert that has been taking place for c20 years, and which is a major part of the proposed project.

In short, several thousands of people attend that function each year. I think c7000 in 2025. Most of those fly in from overseas staying in local hotels, guest houses and B&Bs.

It isn't just the logistics that are staggering. The benefit to the local and much wider community is also staggering.

Locally, c£6.9 million of economic benefit supports local business in East Grinstead just over £11 million in Sussex. It safeguards and support local jobs also.

[REDACTED] that Town and much wider East Sussex locations also benefit. The delegates / attendees to the annual event spread themselves to numerous hotels in East Sussex – such as Ashdown Park Hotel and East Sussex National Hotel just to name two large establishments – plus numerous other hotels / guest houses, restaurants, shops, entertainment venues, markets, and coastal resorts. People travelling from various parts of the World do not come to this event for just a few nights. It's often their annual holiday, hence the massive financial benefit to our various Sussex communities.

I think that if this project failed to gain Planning approval, it is likely the applicant would switch the annual venue to America. That would be somewhat catastrophic for our local communities, our economy, and in other ways.

I would therefore encourage members to consider what I have written, for the reasons I have stated.

[REDACTED]