

Planning Department
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
RH16 1SS



2nd May 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Planning Application DM/25/1129 Land at Foxhole Farm

We are writing as residents of Bolney, to express our strong objection to the Foxhole planning application.

We feel the proposed development is not sustainable because Bolney is a small village with very limited services & infrastructure. We do not have a Post Office, grocery shop within the main village, GP surgery, dentist or a regular bus service; which has no plans on being improved & has been recently reduced further, offering 4 buses a day to Crawley & Brighton, 2 buses a day to Haywards Heath and only 1 bus a week to Burgess Hill! We already have to use a car to access these services elsewhere. This huge development will put an enormous strain on education provision & on an already stretched GP, dental & social care service. The local primary school at almost full capacity does not have the space for further expansion to the degree needed. There are no cycle paths to nearby villages & the A272 is a fast & busy road not suitable for cyclists.

We have pedestrian safety issues as we have no raised pavements & the main street & painted pavements being very narrow too. Cars tend to drive already fairly fast through the village but increased traffic from the proposed development (200 houses = 200-400 more cars!) accessing the very busy A272 will cause further holdups, jams & accidents. This will have the effect of creating rat runs through the village & making it more unsafe for pedestrians, especially the elderly & children. Parking is a big issue currently & this problem will only be exacerbated further with such a large development. The developer has not asked us what our needs are; offering an orchard, community building, children's play area & allotments are not key requirements as we have these things already. Our large 10 year old village hall, The Rawson Hall, offers good office hub facilities with fast Wi-fi connections. It offers superb facilities for children's groups; we have Bolney Under Fives who operate out of it on a daily basis. A very active Community Café runs 3 days a week at the Rawson Hall. It is surrounded by fields, a football pitch & modern upgraded children's play area with a basketball court & small bike track. The Rawson Hall is run by a committee & very well maintained; who will run & maintain this proposed community building at Foxhole? We also have a huge local orchard, the Apple Farm & Cider Tap within walking distance of the village. None of the developers infrastructure proposals will improve the sustainability of the village, we will still not be able to meet our daily needs without the use of a car. No explanation on how they will improve & not worsen our current unreliable water supply issues either!

We Bolney residents, spent many months working together to develop the Neighbourhood Plan where other more suitable & sustainable sites were identified & approved. This development is not supported by the policies of the District Plan. Foxhole Farm lies outside Bolney's built up area boundary in open countryside. Already many houses have recently been built on greenfield sites such as Magdalene Rise & Churchfield View. Building 200 new houses will effectively double the size of Bolney (259 households were recorded by the 2021 Census) It will ruin the character & setting of this lovely historic village as well as impact the local wildlife & habitat because it is completely disproportionate to Bolney's current village size. We hope that this application for a disproportionate number of houses in Bolney will be rejected.

Yours faithfully

