

The Grainloft, Cuckfield Road, Ansty, West Sussex RH17 5AG

The Planning Department,
Oaklands Road,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

12th January 2024

Dear Mr Ashdown,

DM/23/2867

I would like to object in the strongest possible terms to this planning application. Of course, it is just a device to attempt to tick boxes enabling the Ansty new town application (DM/23/2866) to get approval.

As far as I understand, increasing biodiversity on one site to compensate for the damages done on another is against current planning regulations.

Much of what thrives on DM/23/2867 won't like the proposed changes at all. Most notably the cuckoo, after which Cuckfield is named. They thrive in quite woods and if we destroy this last part of their natural habitat, it is most likely, they will vanish altogether.

The recent population decline of cuckoos makes them a Red List species in the 2021 UK Conservation Status Report.

Red is the highest conservation priority, with species on this list needing urgent action to protect their numbers falling further.

As for the viewing platforms into someone else's back garden, quite apart from a wanton disregard for other people's privacy, the platforms would be on the very site where iron arrow heads that were instrumental in Henry V's great victory at Agincourt were forged, with power generated from these hammer ponds.

It's a great pity that power was not readily available when the developer's agents were undertaking moth surveys. I gather their moth trap machines failed due to lack of power; I am told they submitted the readings regardless.

What this application (DM23/2867) does however, is recognize how damaging DM/23/2866 is going to be.

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It is my great wish this developer gets to redevelop Burgess Hill and Haywards heath town centers, both crying out for modernization and both of which have every transport facility on their doorstep and where you will do the least harm to biodiversity. This is widely known to be the wish of many locals and those within Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill – and I think it is in line with Central Governments directives.

This site, this part of England is very special, we must do everything we can to protect it and build affordable, properly sustainable homes for people which means apartments in town centers. Less profitable for the developer but more beneficial to the local community.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Jane Smith