

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 25/09/2025 12:48 PM.

Application Summary

Address: Juhring And Hobbs Field At Saint Hill Manor Saint Hill Road East Grinstead West Sussex

Proposal: Hard paved car park with 121 spaces and toilet facilities adjacent to Saint Hill Road. Hard paved access road servicing both Juhring and Hobbs fields. Engineered grass surfaced provision of 619 spaces for temporary parking for specific events in Juhring field. Re-contouring of Hobbs field with grassed surface and provision of permanent pads for a marquee together with washroom facilities and substation with backup generator.

Case Officer: Andrew Watt

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address:

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour or general public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for
comment:

Comments: I would like to comment on planning application DM/25/2223 (Juhring And Hobbs Field At Saint Hill Manor Saint Hill Road East Grinstead West Sussex)

I strongly object to this application because of the following:

The Saint Hill estate is located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with an ancient woodland located next to the proposed site. I do not think that the proposed development is suitable for such an area. The inevitable use of heavy earth moving equipment will have a detrimental effect on the environment and wildlife.

This development proposes turning an agricultural field into a permanent car park. According to the application this car park will only be fully utilised for a few days each year, probably just 3 days. Turning the whole field into a permanent car park seems like a hugely excessive thing to do. The cost of this would be huge and makes no sense for such limited use, unless the CoS plans to greatly increase the numbers of visitors to the estate, by expanding the facilities.

The roads surrounding Saint Hill are narrow, twisty and are without street lighting or pedestrian pavements. In several areas there is not enough room for two vehicles larger than a typical car to pass each other. If you want to walk down either any of the roads surrounding Saint Hill (Saint Hill Road and West Hoathly Road), you take your life in your hands. Many is the time I have had to take avoiding action to avoid a speeding motorist. Turning a car park into a field will only lead to an increase in road traffic causing safety, pollution and congestion problems. For example, during the series of events run by the CoS in Nov 2023, traffic was backed up along Saint Hill Road to the B2110 crossroads, approx. 800 yds away, simply because of the vehicles waiting to enter Juhring field which was being used for parking. This traffic jam caused huge inconvenience to local drivers attempting to get to the sports club, the rugby club and elsewhere. Further developing the estate will only add to these problems.

I am very concerned that this development will be a prelude to even more development at the Saint Hill estate. In recent years we have seen several new buildings (a wing extension to the northern part of the castle, a cafeteria, a coach park, a large building for training course delivery next to the stables, a large garage solely for the display of L Ron Hubbard's cars, plus various workshops and greenhouses). It seems that the CoS is intent on creating a campus-style environment. None of these developments have been sympathetic to the existing historic Saint Hill Manor estate and further similar developments would be an

eyesore.

All of this comes after the building of a very large faux castle in the 1960s which started without even bothering to apply for planning permission. It is a common boast within the CoS that Hubbard circumvented planning laws by claiming that any person in England had the right to build their own castle.

If permission for this development is given now, where will it end? Will the tent that they erect for 3 months each year become a permanent structure? Will they then claim precedent for a concert / exhibition centre on the site, building a permanent road between that and the proposed car park? Will they build further accommodation for visitors so that they do not have to leave the site? Such developments would be completely inappropriate for such an area. It may be considered that further developments can be controlled by planning law, but the CoS has a poor record of complying with the law. Witness the refusal of the CoS to apply for planning permission for the erecting of a huge marquee (45,000 sq ft) despite being issued with a contravention notice in 2024, planting a hedge on a public right of way, simply to prevent critics from lawfully standing there and multiple breaches of pollution laws resulting in a large fine for sewage discharge into a watercourse in 2018.

For all of the above, and many other reasons, I believe that this planning application must be refused.

Kind regards