

## The Planning Inspectorate

### COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

Please note that comments about this case need to be made within the timetable. This can be found in the notification letter sent by the local planning authority or the start date letter. Comments submitted after the deadline may be considered invalid and returned to sender.

**Appeal Reference: APP/X1925/W/25/3358840**

#### DETAILS OF THE CASE

|                  |                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Appeal Reference | APP/X1925/W/25/3358840                                                                                                           |
| Appeal By        | MR BRUCE PARKER                                                                                                                  |
| Site Address     | Land to the East of Old Hale Way<br>Hitchin<br>Hertfordshire<br>SG4 0SA<br>Grid Ref Easting: 518530<br>Grid Ref Northing: 231117 |

#### SENDER DETAILS

|         |                                         |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|
| Name    | MISS SHELLY LEITCH                      |
| Address | 25 Bessemer Close<br>HITCHIN<br>SG5 1AG |

#### ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?

- ☐ Appellant
- ☐ Agent
- ☒ Interested Party / Person
- ☐ Land Owner
- ☐ Rule 6 (6)

What kind of representation are you making?

- ☐ Final Comments
- ☐ Proof of Evidence
- ☐ Statement
- ☐ Statement of Common Ground
- ☒ Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- ☐ Other

## YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

I have objected twice to Mr Bruce Parker's application for a "Community" Car Park. This is now the third time I am taking the time to put my objections in writing. The applicant withdrew the first application, the second was refused and now here we are at appeal stage.

In my opinion, there is no need for a 30-space car park in this area, or any carpark for this matter. There is already parking available for the allotments and I cannot see any reason for a Green Belt area to be destroyed for a car park that is not needed. There are never any cars parked on Old Hale Way, because people cannot park at the allotments, walk dogs or go for a walk. People in the area, tend to walk here.

This will change the character and identity of the land and destroy part of a lovely nature area. Noted there will be new trees planted but at the expense of destroying what is currently there.

The applicant has not provided any evidence that Ickleford struggles for sufficient parking. This proposed location is too far away from the centre of Ickleford to make any difference to the school/church/village hall, where events are held. The fact that the Transport Report states that people will walk 10 mins to amenities, might be correct in larger towns/cities but not a little village like Ickleford. There are plenty of places to park in the village, even in residential streets.

In addition, the pathway from the proposed car park into Ickleford, is so narrow in parts and an increase in pedestrians using this footpath just wouldn't be safe. The new route that the applicant has created, is narrow, overgrown and there are so many stinging nettles either side and it gets muddy, so isn't deemed an alternative in my opinion.

If there are events held in this car park such as a farmers' market, car boot sale and the like, there will be a significant increase in traffic and cars will have to park on Old Hale Way, causing obstructions and additional car parking hazards, which are not present, currently.

If I have read the document correctly, the gate to this carpark is automatic from dusk till dawn. What measures will be taken to discourage the Travelling Community setting themselves up here?

The Environmental Report paid for by the applicant, goes to great lengths to tell us that there are no badgers, bats, nesting birds, newts, etc etc at the site. There is no mention of the general loss to bees and butterflies etc, that are in abundance in that area.

The applicant has also had an more recent application refused on the same piece of land, albeit a bit further back, for a "Farmers Dwelling". I am really concerned that the applicant is hell bent on just trying to do something, anything with this land, at the expense of the beautiful Green Belt land it is currently is.

Please refuse this application at appeal stage, once and for all. Many thanks in advance.

Please reject this again at your earliest opportunity.