

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
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG4 0SA
Grid Ref Easting: 518530
Grid Ref Northing: 231117

SENDER DETAILS

Name DR MARK SCHILLING

Address
45 Bessemer Close
HITCHIN
SG5 1AG

Company/Group/Organisation Name Owner of 45 Bessemer Close, Hitchin

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

Most of my concerns for earlier planning applications to North Herts Council(23/01652/FP & 24/01920/FP for which there were 45 and 31 objections respectively & only 1 supporting reply) are applicable to this recent appeal.

- Old Hale Way is a busy road used as a cut-through with historical speed issues as necessitated by a permanent speed detector on the corner of Old Hale Way/ Bessemer Close. This is <50 metres from the proposal area!! This road supports 4 schools (Ickleford/Our Ladys/Strathmore/Priory) i.e. it is a busy road. Encouraging more traffic into the area with the provision of a car park will make those SAFETY issues worse.
- Adjacent to the proposed site there are council allotments with >118 plots yet it's car park provides space for < 10 cars. The lack of parking encourages people to walk or cycle from surrounding areas and should be seen as a successful precedent.
- In the >30 years of living in this area, never have I heard any suggestion that we need more parking.....apart from Mr Parker! Can Mr Parker point to a local cohort demanding more parking? (I'll wait!)
- We should all be discouraging car use and not be introducing more white elephants that will affect our safety & degrade our local environment. There are some recently created parking spaces within Ickleford (specifically Icknield Way) yet these are rarely used supporting that the need for an "overflow" or "community" car park simply doesn't exist.
- With the closure of the nearby Bowman's Mill and that site's anticipated residential development, the introduction of a car park will seed the slow conurbation of Hitchin with Ickleford and reduce our closest green spaces.
- This field was previously used for agriculture. Food security is more important than a car park.

In summary, a community car park on the outskirts of the village doesn't make sense. As can be demonstrated by the number of previous objections, the community doesn't need or want it. Secretary of State, please reject this ridiculous proposal.