

Our reference: COM566561356

Application number: 2023/2860

Application address: Land at 12 and Land West of 10 to 26 Claygate Lane Esher Surrey KT10 0AQ

Name: Mr Holman

Address: 26 Claygate Lane, Esher, Surrey, KT10 0AQ

Comment type: You object to the planning application

Date of comment: 03 Dec 2023

Comment: I am writing to formally express my objection to the proposed development, The following objections outline key issues that, if left unaddressed, could have detrimental effects on our local environment, community, and heritage.

1. **Biodiversity Threat and Impact on Local Ecosystems:** This development poses a significant threat to local biodiversity by disturbing the delicate balance that sustains our ecosystem. The loss of habitat and disruption of the local flora and fauna could have far-reaching consequences. High-density housing further has the potential to disrupt the delicate balance of our local ecosystems, leading to unforeseen consequences for both flora and fauna.
2. **Habitat Destruction and Tree Loss:** The removal of over 35-45 mature trees, including oak, beech, and other diverse species, each with a lifespan of many years, amounts to outright habitat destruction. This not only diminishes the aesthetic value of the area but also jeopardizes the stability of the surrounding ecosystem by disrupting tree root zones.
3. **Wildlife Disruption:** Jeopardizing the habitats of essential pollinators, beetles, stag beetles, squirrels, bats, and local foxes, is concerning. Disregarding their territories not only threatens pest control but also upsets the delicate ecological balance. These disruptions can have a cascading effect on the delicate ecological tapestry of our community.
4. **Landowner's Irresponsible Actions:** It is essential to highlight the landowners' recent actions, where they have already taken a chainsaw to their land, cutting down a mature oak tree and destroying habitats without any thought or consideration. This irresponsible behaviour raises serious concerns about their commitment to environmental preservation and responsible development practices.
5. **Flood Risk:** Altering flood risk dynamics without due consideration recklessly endangers our community and the broader environment.
6. **Parking Insufficiency:** The lack of foresight regarding parking provisions prioritizes quantity over the community's well-being, potentially leading to congestion and inconvenience.
7. **Climate Change Considerations:** The proposed development appears regressive, failing to address sustainability and environmental stewardship. This oversight is concerning in the face of ongoing climate challenges.
8. **Community Offer Rebuffed for Profit:** The landowners recently received an offer for the land, exceeding its actual market value. Rejecting this offer in pursuit of greater profit demonstrates a lack of commitment to responsible development and community well-being. This decision should be revisited, considering the community's genuine interest and the offer's potential benefits to all stakeholders.
9. **Imbalance of Harms and Benefits:** The proposed development's potential irreversible damage to local ecology, coupled with the absence of affordable housing, raises questions about its overall

intentions and benefits to the community.

10. Impact on the Historic Manor Lodge: The vague plan leaves me unable to comment on potential harm to the historic Manor Lodge. A thorough assessment considering its historical and cultural significance is imperative.

11. Loss of Privacy in Back-to-Back Gardens: The proposed development threatens the privacy that is integral to our neighborhood's character. Adequate measures should be taken to address this concern and preserve the existing quality of life.

12. Traffic Issues in Claygate Lane: Traffic concerns in Claygate Lane are compounded by the increased housing units, necessitating a thorough assessment of potential risks and appropriate mitigation measures. I urge the council to liaise with the local police to understand the number of reported road traffic incidents in the area. This collaboration is crucial to ensuring the safety of residents and addressing any potential risks associated with increased traffic.

13. Harm of Proposed New Street Lighting: The introduction of new street lighting should be critically assessed to avoid unnecessary harm to the environment and the well-being of the community. Excessive or poorly designed lighting can disrupt nocturnal ecosystems and negatively impact residents' sleep patterns and overall health. A thorough examination of the proposed street lighting plans is essential to mitigate these potential harms.

14. Vague and Sketchy Plan: The plan's vagueness raises concerns about transparency and leaves stakeholders unable to make fully informed comments. A clearer, more detailed plan should be provided for public scrutiny.

In conclusion, I urge the planning department to carefully consider and address these objections before approving the proposed development. Responsible and sustainable urban planning is vital to preserving the unique character of our community and ensuring a harmonious coexistence with the environment.