

Our reference: COM572983501

Application number: 2023/2889

Application address: Land Off Anyards Road and Copse Road Cobham Surrey KT11 2LH

Name: Mrs Thompson

Address: 35 Leigh Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 2LF

Comment type: You object to the planning application

Date of comment: 30 Dec 2023

Comment: The development of houses on an area containing an unattractive garage block seems to be a good example of "brown field site development" so I have no objection to that in principle.

However, no provision appears to have been made for the loss of this parking capacity to local residents, many of whom live in Victorian terraced housing with no off street parking. Many cars are parked in this area during the day by people visiting or working in the centre of Cobham and they too will be affected, especially shop workers who mostly earn the minimum wage so cannot afford the local car parks.

Additional cars from the 26 new properties only appear to have been partly provided for on site, putting yet even more pressure on available street parking. Residents only parking would appear to be an essential consequence should this development go ahead.

One change that could help reduce traffic congestion in Copse Road would be for some of the traffic from the corner site (Shergold's) to be able to turn right into Anyards Road and so avoid having to drive all the way round Anyards Road and Copse Road to get onto the Portsmouth Road.

However, my major objection is the claim that there can be no provision for social/affordable housing within the development. There is a desperate lack of social housing in Elmbridge and private landlords are charging rents way above what anyone on benefits or those who are low waged can afford. I do hope that the financial assumptions that led to the conclusion this is a loss making development are closely scrutinised by the Planning Authority. I can't see how this development is in any way exceptional and merits being excluded from Council policy.

I would also like to put on record the timing of this final opportunity for local residents to comment, effectively "hidden" in the noise of Christmas week when no staff are available at the Civic Centre to resolve any specific issues.