

Planning Application CH/2018/0659/OA (99 Dwellings off Asheridge Road)



[Asheridge Road from below Captain's Wood](#)

Dear Emma,

The Chesham Society **opposes** this application, for reasons already put forward by the many objectors. Of these, we would draw attention to –

Unjustified development in the AONB and Green Belt

We support the views expressed by CPRE¹, Brown not Green², the Chiltern Society³ and Chesham Town Council⁴ (among others) regarding the lack of special circumstances which might justify removing Green Belt protection from this site.

As shown in the illustration, development of the site (marked by the red 'x') and consequential widening of Asheridge Road, would leave the land surrounding the bowls club (opposite) vulnerable to a similar application, after which the field surrounding Portobello Farm (on the left of the image) would be next.

Clearly this site is contributing to the two of the five purposes of the Green Belt – checking unrestricted sprawl of urban areas, and safeguarding surrounding countryside from encroachment. The developer's suggestion that the hedgerow on the NW boundary of the site would form a 'logical and defensible boundary'⁵ is undermined by their readiness to remove the similar boundary hedge along Asheridge Road.

Access considerations

The existing problems regarding access to the site, which will be exacerbated by (conditional) permission for development of 172 units nearer the Town Centre⁶, have been highlighted by many objectors. We point out that traffic from Asheridge Road and Hivings Hill proceeding towards Amersham (on the A416) can either turn right onto Broad Street from Townsend Road, or are obliged to turn left from Bellingdon Road, then double back at the roundabout at the foot of White Hill. Either option will make a significant contribution to congestion on the A416, already designated a Priority Congestion Management Corridor by Bucks CC (and for good reasons).

We ask the committee to prohibit further development on the periphery of Chesham, and instead promote the ideas proposed by Chesham Renaissance Community Interest Company.

Regards,

Jim Conboy
(Committee Member for Planning)

¹ 3189197

² 3634847

³ 3634892

⁴ 3189620

⁵ Planning Statement (3174075) para 6.11

⁶ CH/2016/1770, CH/2015/1671