



BRAMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Member of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils

Clerk: Mrs Maxta Thomas, PO Box 6967, Tadley, RG24 4XG

Tel: 07810 692486

Email: clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.bramley-pc.gov.uk

Matt Paine
Managing Director
Redrow - Southern Counties Head Office
Unit 1
Faraday Office Park
Rankine Road
Basingstoke
RG24 8QQ

Your ref:

My ref:

Date: 12th December 2024

cc: - Tilly Whishaw, Head of Planning, Redrow

Dear Sir

Planning application 23/02868/RES - Land at Stocks Farm, the Street, Bramley, Hampshire

I am writing this letter to you re the above application, the reserved matters application submitted pursuant to outline planning appeal App/H1705/W/22/3302752 for 140 Dwellings.

I write on behalf of Bramley Parish Council.

This application was discussed at the Development Control Committee at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on Wednesday, 4th December 2024. Bramley Parish Council spoke at this meeting along with the Borough Councillors Cllr Chris Tomblin and Cllr Chatburn along with a resident of the houses backing onto this development. Nobody was against the application but there was an overwhelming request that the houses be shifted some 35m to the west. The councillors on the Committee asked a lot of questions of those presenting the proposal but it was never discussed further because the Councillors were tied as to the decision they had to make because all consultees accepted the application. The proposal was dismissed out of hand.

However, Bramley Parish Council would like to appeal to you to consider seriously this request. We on the Parish Council are not engineers but living in Bramley and dealing with the housing expansion that Bramley has seen over the years appreciate what this move would mean to the residents of Bramley.

We are sure you know the history of Bramley. From the earliest settlement at Bullsdown Iron Age Plateau Fort, it has been a rural agricultural village with wide open spaces and the historic village centre of Bramley has developed around the distinctive shape of a horseshoe that skirts around St James Church, which is on the pilgrimage route of St James to the Church at Santiago de Compostela in Spain. There are eleven listed buildings around this area. To the east of the village centre is Bramley Green which has developed along the edge of the common. This over the years has joined the village of Bramley by development around the railway station.

The population of Bramley as a whole (Bramley village and Bramley Green) has grown considerably over recent years along with the housing stock, but we have tried with some success to maintain the

rural feeling, with open spaces and wide views as seen in the Bramley Neighbourhood Plan that was produced in 2017.

This request to move the houses some 35m to the west will give a feeling of more open space rather than the houses being so close to the dwellings on the Street. As a developer, you are not losing anything, but you would be contributing to keeping Bramley as rural as possible.

- A green space separation would be between the existing houses and the new ones rather than packing them altogether, an urban feeling.
 - The new houses on the eastern edge of the development would back onto amenity green space rather than the gardens of existing houses.
 - The new houses on the western edge would be adjacent to the wildflower meadow,
- and
- the construction would avoid the quagmire that exists on the eastern edge of the field, and it would also help to maintain the setting of Stocks Farm that is a Grade II listed building that has had wide open agricultural views for years. Surface water drainage from the site would also most likely be improved with this move.

We accept that every village is going to grow and grow but there is nothing stopping us considering the history of the area, in this case wide agricultural views. We will never be able to keep those views but if we can go some way, we are not only making the developments more acceptable to the existing residents but safeguarding some historical aspects of the area for future generations.

So, sir, we are not engineers but trying in our capacity as Bramley Parish Councillors appealing to you to look at this proposal. It would make such a difference to fitting more into the village. We cannot see that you as the developer of these houses will be in any way compromised in meeting the application that has been approved.

This is a heartfelt appeal from a Council that loves the village, is trying its utmost to maintain it as a lovely place to live with its surrounding country walks.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

CLlr Malcolm Bell
Vice Chair Bramley Parish Council