

Cllr. Denis Leigh (Waverley Borough Council, Milford Ward)
Cllr. Bob Upton (Waverley Borough Council, Milford Ward)
Cllr. Gillian McCalden (Witley Parish Council, Chair)
Cllr. Tony Sollars (Witley Parish Council, Planning Committee Chair)

Friday, 23 November 2018

Re: Planning Application: WA/2018/1815 (Milford Golf Course)

Dear Fellow Councillors,

I am writing to you to formally express some concerns regarding the proposed development at **Milford Golf Course** (as outlined by application WA/2018/1815).

These concerns represent the feelings of a significant number of residents that I represent as a borough and town councillor in the neighbouring ward of **Godalming Central and Ockford**, my own concerns as a member for Godalming and a number of residents living in Milford and Witley who have chosen to contact me directly.

Residents' Concerns (by no means an exhaustive list);

- The impact of cumulative development locally and in particular in conjunction with 'Ockford Park' (WA/2018/1239) in my ward. The combined impact on the roads, local services and infrastructure, flood risk and other important considerations have not been sufficiently assessed for their in-combination impact;
- The possibility of these major sites being developed concurrently. Planning conditions will need to be detailed and enforced to prevent major issues during construction (particularly with HGV's and construction material) and concurrent developments of this scale will not aid the limited number of WBC planning enforcement officers in that task;
- The site does not seem to be part Milford and Witley Neighbourhood plan (but has been removed from the Green Belt as part of Waverley LPP1). The aforementioned neighbourhood plan seems to favour alternative sites (as it seems do many of your residents);
- There are also serious concerns about the density of the site and the number of cars, congestion and air pollution.

As in my own ward the principal of development is absolutely not something I am against (indeed I strongly believe we need significantly more genuinely affordable and social housing than is being built) but equally we have a responsibility to critically review and potentially oppose development for which the consequences are not (and likely cannot) be mitigated as part of their infrastructure contributions.

I would like to offer my support to Witley Parish Council as a concerned neighbouring councillor and hope that we can work together as we did with your recent objection letter regarding Ockford Park.

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My intent is to have this application reviewed by Godalming Town Council (GTC) to record a formal opinion before it goes to the Waverley Joint Planning Committee – and it is my hope that you might support that endeavour by writing to the Chairman of the Godalming Town Council Policy and Management Committee (Cllr Stefen Reynolds) to that end.

We unfortunately have no dedicated planning committee at GTC and as such I am an opposition councillor asking the majority party chair for this to be added to the town council agenda - as you can imagine there is no guarantee that will happen and as such your support would be greatly appreciated!

Finally, I call upon the borough councillors addressed in this letter to make their views on this application known to your own residents (and to mine) and to attempt to constructively engage with the planning department and the developer on this matter. It is my hope that you already are.

Best Regards,

Cllr Paul Follows

Godalming | Central & Ockford Ward
Waverley Borough Council / Godalming Town Council