

Planning application comment was submitted on the **16 April 2024 15:18 PM**

The following is a comment on application **P240422/F** by **Amanda Attfield**

Nature of feedback: Objecting to the application

Comment: I object to this planning application. The proposed development would significantly increase traffic, noise and disturbance which would directly and adversely impact the rare and ancient Lugg Meadow SSSI. It would lead to a loss of a significant and valuable habitat for plants and wildlife. It would be in contravention of the Council's own local plan policies: SS6 Natural and Historic Heritage, Environmental Quality and Local Distinctiveness, the Lugg Meadow is a historic environment and a heritage asset and as such it is a feature not only of local but of national importance. It would contravene policy LD1 - Landscape and Townscape, as it would not help conserve and enhance the natural, historic and scenic beauty of important landscapes and features but would adversely impact these. It would contravene policy LD2 - Biodiversity and geodiversity, as it would not help conserve, restore and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity assets of Herefordshire, and it would not retain and protect nature conservation sites and habitats; rather it is likely to do harm to a SSSI site and I cannot see how there could be any material consideration, or compensatory measure that would outweigh this. This does not appear to be to be a development of such importance that it would outweigh the potential damage it is likely to cause. The proposed development would contravenes policy LD3 – Green infrastructure, in that is would not protect, retain or preserve existing green infrastructure corridors and linkages nor protect the valued Lugg Meadows flood plain with its landscape, trees, hedgerows and water courses. It would contravene policy LD4 – Historic environment and heritage assets as it would directly and adversely affect a heritage asset; the Lugg Meadow is known to be a unique historic environment. It is the largest surviving Lammas Meadow in the country and it needs to be protected, conserved, and where possible enhanced.

Irreparable harm will be caused to the Lugg Meadow environment and the rare flora and fauna it sustains. If this development is allowed the County and the UK will lose a truly unique site, and it will be lost forever to future generations. To quote Richard Attenborough from The Lost World: Jurassic Park "These creatures require our absence to survive.... And if we could only step aside and trust in nature, life will find a way." What this area needs as we aren't "absent" proper management, but certainly not more development with the associated permanent human presence and disturbance.

I'm also concerned about the impact on local services (health services, schools) and the volume increase to "heartbeat" traffic in and out of Hereford to access services. We have seen the impact from large scale housing development such as those south of the River Wye, and the issues that has caused. This development could well kick-start a similar situation north of the river.

Attachment:

Their contact details are as follows:

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Infrastructure from section 106 to consider: I hope the council will not be minded to accept an application that contravenes so many of its own local planning policies.

Link ID: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning_services/planning_application_search/details?id=240422

Form reference: FS-Case-606372801