

DC/22/2190/HYB Hybrid planning application

Richard Winch - District Councillor - Walsham Le Willows Ward

The residents of the Walsham Le Willows ward were pleased and relieved that Members were mindful to refuse this application at the Development Control Committee on March 6th 2024.

The proposed development has the potential to create in excess of 1000 additional two-way traffic movements on the local highway network, some of which would use local roads through villages. The core reason for refusal remains that the additional vehicular traffic generated by the proposed development routing through surrounding villages would have a significant harmful impact on the amenity of residents.

We don't understand Highway's current position in relation to the ever growing traffic issues of congestion and air quality in neighbouring villages and along the A143.

We note that a mitigation condition is proposed that each individual business on the site would have a vehicle routing policy that has the intention, as far as is feasibly possible, to minimise the use of minor routes in the vicinity of the site.

From a Walsham Ward viewpoint we don't see any reasons why HGVs or other vehicles owned or used by companies onsite should ever be allowed to approach the site from Walsham / Wattisfield or be allowed to turn right down Summer Road when leaving the site apart from in emergencies or for genuine local travel. If there was serious concern about the amenity of residents this condition would not be left deliberately vague and would stipulate the detailed traffic limitations required.

We remain hopeful that the Committee will stay steadfast in spite of the pressure that is being put on the Committee by Planning Officers as illustrated by the Development Control Report 3 April 2024.

We would urge the Committee to continue to reject this application based on the fall back words outlined by Planning Officers.