



WOODLEY HAS SPOKEN!

300 objections logged against Sandford Farm development

What you can do now

Write a letter to the local papers voicing your objections to the Sandford Farm proposals.

The local media is following this issue closely and is always interested in the views of those affected.

Send your letters to one, or all, of the following:

Letters to the Editor
Woodley Chronicle
50-56 Portman Road
Reading
RG30 1BA
letters@readingchronicle.co.uk

Letters
Woodley Times
Unit 5, Anvil Court
Denmark Street
Wokingham
RG40 2BB
editorial
@wokingham-times.co.uk

The Editor
Reading Evening Post
8 Tessa Road
Reading
RG1 8NS
editorial@reading-epost.co.uk

If you get stuck for what to say, just check our list of main objections overleaf.

Wokingham District Council has confirmed receipt of almost 300 written objections to both Sandford Farm planning applications. And they're still coming in.

As a result of this massive response, and the complexity of the application and its implications, the Council has said it will continue to accept comments from residents.

So, if you were away on holiday when the original deadline of 29 July passed, now's your opportunity to make your views known and add to the groundswell of local opposition so publicly demonstrated at the 24 July meeting at Woodley's Coronation Hall.

Please quote **ref 2003/9638** and **2003/9639** on your letters and send to:

Environmental Services Department, Planning Services. PO Box 157, Wokingham District Council, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WR.

Local Groups Join Forces

The Loddon Valley Action Group has joined forces with the Hurst Village Society (www.hvs.org.uk) to pool resources and co-ordinate local opposition to the development of Sandford Farm.

The alliance between the HVS and LVAG is driven by the development's threat to both communities which will expose areas of Hurst and Woodley to excessive works noise, pests, smells and waste spillage, as well as the possibility of subsidence to neighbouring properties in Woodley. The proposed housing development will have huge, negative implications for the area's already overburdened roads, schools and amenities.

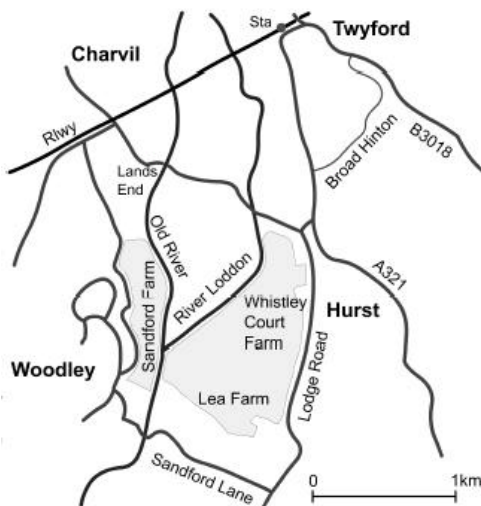
Like LVAG, the HVS has an excellent campaign record within its community, especially in protecting and maintaining the physical element and rural aspect of Hurst. Over the weekend of 9/10 August, members of the Society distributed more than 1,000 leaflets to those homes in Twyford and Hurst most likely to be affected by the proposals, which include moving 300,000 cubic metres of industrial waste to two pits at Lea Farm and Whistley Court Farm in Hurst.

We're on the web!
www.lvag.org.uk

SANDFORD FARM: The Facts

Sandford Farm used to be a gravel extraction site but, over the past 30 years, has been filled with industrial, commercial and other waste.

Nobody really knows what's in there despite bore holes recently being drilled to assess the state of the waste matter. Some of it could be **hazardous** and potentially **toxic** and may include **asbestos, chemicals** and **pharmaceuticals** because a licence was issued allowing these to be dumped there. No-one knows exactly where because, by present standards, the site was largely unregulated.



Housing development cannot take place without the waste being extracted first and the empty 'cells' filled with non-hazardous waste and soil. In 1999, a Hicks Persimmon plan for 250 houses on the site was refused on appeal on the grounds that the site had been restored and, in the words of the Government planning inspector, 'there was no justification for restoring it again.' There has been no obvious physical change to the site since to justify its disturbance now.

In 2001, the Oracle Corporation received planning permission to build a conference and training centre on the site. This planning permission is still 'live' and could be implemented today because, as a commercial site, the waste would not have to be moved.

The Race To Beat The Directive

A new European directive on the movement of hazardous waste (effective June 2002 as the Landfill [England and Wales] Regulations 2002) has set the developers a 16 July 2004 deadline for Sandford Farm.

After that date, they will be obliged to truck the hazardous material out of Berkshire because sites like Lea Farm and Whistley Court Farm will no longer be able to receive it — nor will any other site in the county.

Loddon Valley Action Group contacts:

Phil Challis	944 2164
David Parker	969 3982
George Puttock	969 9772

Stuck for something to write to WDC, or the local papers? Then consider the following:

- ⇒ Waste removal would cause many months, even years, of environmental disturbance through smell, dust and noise.
- ⇒ Re-distributing noxious and dangerous materials throughout the surrounding community is unnecessarily risky. Residents have a right to protection from these threats by their local council.
- ⇒ The proposed site is a reserve housing development in the Wokingham District Plan and should not be used until other priority sites have been developed first.
- ⇒ Woodley is already under-resourced—the schools are full, the doctors and dentists are often overcrowded, the roads gridlocked during rush hours. Vehicles from another 450 houses would make peak time travel impossible.

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