

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan \(TWBC\)](#)
Subject: RYE RD - TWBC LOCAL PLAN: BORCHFIELD SITE
Date: 26 February 2024 19:08:21

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From: Henrietta Budd



Dear Sirs

I understand you are inviting comments in relation to plans for a Revised Development Strategy to the Tunbridge Wells Submission Local Plan (SLP). I have an interest as a local resident in the plans for the development of the Birchfield Site [extract from your website text: it is proposed to revise site allocation policy number AL/HA5: Land to the north of Birchfield Grove, to include housing, and land safeguarded for primary school expansion (in accordance with a planning committee resolution on application reference 22/02664/HYBRID)]

I object to this proposed Birchfield site for the following reasons

1. The congestion and pollution caused by traffic is appalling and it is not uncommon to take over half an hour to get through the village in any direction.
2. The village infrastructure cannot take another 70 houses as the water and sewage works are already unable to cope and there is another site already under construction off Highgate Hill.
3. Local schools and other services are already struggling to cope.
4. This is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is being heavily impacted by more and more development.

Based on Derek G's comments on the Nextdoor website last week (see below) I understand that over 200 people objected to the application as well as Hawkhurst Parish Council and only about 6 people supporting it. Derek G says the application to build 70 houses, a medical centre and a 50 bay car park was approved by the Planning Committee in November but still shows online as "Awaiting Decision".

- With regard to that Planning Committee meeting, Derek G raises the following issues to which it would be good to have answers to his questions
- Why did Councillors have to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements prior, so that it could not be discussed with voters?
- Why should Councillor Ellen Neville be barred from voting on a technicality because she had previously objected?
- Why should the query as to due diligence carried out on Rydon by the Planning Department be ignored?
- Why should a Councillor be silenced by the Chairman when he said: 'Of course if we vote against this application it would cost the Council £1m to defend our decision'? This statement does not appear in the Minutes! Would that in effect bankrupt TWBC?
- Why should the Committee Chairman, a Hawkhurst and Sandhurst Ward Councillor vote FOR

the Application?

- Had the decision to approve the Application already been taken before the Planning Committee met?

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours faithfully
Henrietta Budd