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To: Local Plan (TWBC) <LocalPlan@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk>
Subject: Hawkenbury Football Hub

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Local Plan

I wish to confirm my opposition to the the proposed Hawkenbury Football 'Hub' and the 3000 capacity stadium.

The residential location is entirely inappropriate for such a development. The impact of increased traffic, parking and noise will be life changing for the residents of Hawkenbury and its environs. Public consultation has been minimal and the potential effect on the locality and its residents dismissed.

The proposed site directly abuts the Sherborne Close residential complex, and is adjacent to private housing off High Woods Lane. As well as residents of these properties suffering inescapable and more or less daily noise (including shouting and swearing as one already hears from the existing facilities) and overwhelming parking pressure particularly on match days, the wider residential area of Hawkenbury, with streets already at capacity, will be similarly impacted, which for quality of life will be disastrous.

At present Hawkenbury Recreation Ground and High Wood offer relatively peaceful areas for recreation. All this will go. The appropriate place for a 'Hub' of such concentrated activity is a location where the impact on residents is minimised and public transport and parking are available. There is also a case for arguing that investment in public sports facilities should be spread across the Borough where young people can access them rather than concentrating them in one location.

No one in their right mind would allow their children to cycle to the Hub. Bayhall and Forest Roads are now a 'no-go' for cycling with the volume, speed and size of vehicles now using them. Increased traffic to the proposed 'Hub' will simply make the situation worse.

One is left wondering what is driving this proposal.

John Telling

