

2020/2007, Land North of Old Farleigh Road, Farleigh, Surrey

Dear Laura Field,

Re: Erection of crematorium and memorial gardens together with car parking, landscaping works and associated infrastructure.

Warlingham Parish Council wishes to support the objections raised by Chelsham and Farleigh Parish Council and the Farleigh Crematorium Working Group in their "Response to Mercia Crematorium Planning Statement" 31/12/2020. As an adjoining parish, we also wish to object to this application which, if approved, would also have a detrimental impact on the residents of Warlingham.

Specifically, our objections to this application are:

1. The development is proposed on Green Belt land which forms part of a valuable buffer zone to the suburban settlements to the north of Tandridge.
2. The application proposes inappropriate development of the Green Belt. This proposal is harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved. The NPPF gives very high levels of protection for the Green Belt and only allows development in very special circumstances. Very special circumstances do not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt is clearly outweighed by other considerations (NPP4 144 Proposal Affecting the Green Belt). There are no very special circumstances evidenced to justify this application or consideration given to outweigh the harm that would be done to the Green Belt in this case.
3. The proposed site is in an Area of Great Landscape Value and an area of nature conservation interest. It is registered as Ancient Woodland and is very close to Selsdon Nature Reserve.
4. The footprint of the proposed development and associated infrastructure would result in an urbanising effect on an extensively rural area and would fail to preserve the openness of the Green Belt.
5. The proposed development would be completely out of character in the current rural setting of the area and cause significant harm to the wider landscape and local views.
6. The development would fail to preserve the rural character of Farleigh, with its ancient buildings and Grade 1 listed church, St. Mary's, Grade 2 listed Elm Farmhouse, Thatched Cottage and Farleigh Court Manor House.
7. There would be a detrimental impact on local wildlife due to loss of natural habitat. This would result in the destruction of habitats for bats, badgers and other habitats of equal importance.

The Parish Council asks that Tandridge District Council refuse this application.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Simon Bold
Clerk, for and on behalf of, Warlingham Parish Council.