



25th August 2023

E-Mail to; LPU@wokingham.gov.uk

For the attention of Mr. Ben Davis, Senior Planning Policy Officer, Growth and Delivery, Place and Growth

Dear Mr Davis,

Re; Land at Stow Bridge (Hurst Football Club), Hinton Road, Hurst – Local Green Space Nomination LGS136

Hurst Village Society (HVS) is aware that you and your colleagues are currently considering the suitability of sites in the Borough that have been nominated for Local Green Space Designation as part of the Local Plan Update.

The Society has been contacted by Hurst Football Club, who have written to you in relation to the above site, and have stated that they “do not want to see the field designated in this way and kindly request that you avoid doing so please.”

HVS actively supports local organisations and clubs in the village such as the football club and the cricket club and recognises the particular importance they have in providing real opportunities to all age groups, and capabilities, in the local community to actively take part in activities that benefit individuals physical and general wellbeing.

The Society is also aware of the long standing, generous, and hugely beneficial support given to these clubs over many years by other bodies, such as in the case, by the owners of the land and which has been brought to your attention by the football club. Such support has meant the facilities provided at Stow Bridge have been enjoyed by literally hundreds of young people and their families for many,

many years, and more importantly will continue to be into the future because of the mutual respect and acceptance of the individual responsibilities of both the club and the owners of the land

It is very clear that all concerned wish to see the football club continue to be able to enjoy the fantastic playing surface that is available to them (which is the envy of many of their opponents) and also continue to benefit from the unique and proactive support given to the club by the owners of the land.

HVS would strongly support the football club in their submission to Wokingham Borough Council that Local Green Space Designation is neither necessary or an appropriate means of doing this.

Hurst Village Society formally requests that as part of your ongoing assessment you remove the Site at Stow Bridge (Hurst football ground), Hinton Road, Hurst (LGS136) from the published list of potential Local Green Space Sites in the next consultation on the Local Plan Update which I understand is expected to take place later in the Autumn.

I look forward to receiving your confirmation that these comments will be taken into account.

Yours sincerely,

John Osborne, on behalf of Hurst Village Society