



Joint Parish Council Response 5 October 2026

Planning Application 26/01201/OUT Land at Murrell Green, London Road, Murrell Green, Hook

TO: Hart District Council, Planning Department

We, the undersigned, write on behalf of Winchfield, Hook and Hartley Wintney Parish Councils to submit our joint representations objecting to the proposed development on the land between our three parishes. The full representations and supporting reports will be formally submitted by Winchfield Parish Council but have been approved and supported by all three Parish Councils.

Our three Parish Councils came together in response to the strength of feeling expressed by residents across our communities. People are deeply concerned about what the development would mean for the places they call home. We share a desire to protect and respect each other's distinct character: Winchfield's dispersed rural settlements, Hook's established community, and Hartley Wintney's historic village setting. The countryside between them is part of what makes each place recognisable, with clear boundaries and identity. The development would fill much of that gap, bringing the three settlements together into what would feel like one continuous built-up area.

For many residents, this area is the green lung of Hart. It is farmland, open landscape and a place for wildlife and protected environments, but it is also the space that allows our communities to remain distinct. Its loss would be permanent. Once this countryside has been built over, it cannot be given back to future generations.

We absolutely recognise the need for new homes. Our objection is to the scale and location of this proposal and the way it would materially change the area. Residents are understandably worried about more traffic on roads which are already stretched, pressure on schools and health care services, and whether essential infrastructure can support a development of this size. These are everyday concerns for people who would live with its effects for years to come.



The strength of local feeling was such that our Parish Councils have joined forces to work together. In doing so we concluded the best approach was to commission independent specialists in planning, transport, ecology, landscape and heritage. This letter speaks to why we felt it was so important to bring that expertise together on behalf of our communities. The accompanying representations and report set out the evidence behind our objection.

We ask Hart District Council to consider the full and lasting effect of the proposed development on all three parishes with proper consideration of the concerns of people it would affect and the places it would irreparably change. A proposal of this scale should be properly considered through the Local Plan process, alongside other options and the wider needs of the District, with appropriate and careful consideration of the places and people it would affect.

For the reasons set out in our joint representations, Winchfield, Hook and Hartley Wintney Parish Councils object to the application and ask the Council to refuse it. Please record this letter and the accompanying documents as our joint response and take them fully into account when determining the application.

Councillor M Williams
Winchfield Parish Council
Chair

Councillor R Cowell OBE
Hook Parish Council
Chair

Councillor S Elborn
Hartley Wintney Parish
Council Chair