

Four Houses Corner Public Consultation

Comments sent to 4hc@westberks.gov.uk 3rd Nov to 15th Dec 2023

Record of comments sent to a public consultation Four Houses Corner (FHC) email account open from 3rd Nov to 15th Dec.

The account was set up to function with an automated follow up response reminding commentators that if they wish to make a formal objection to proposals, they should do so via the planning portal; a link was provided. Notice of the email account was made via a press release and social media. It should be noted that press release information included a postal contact address for those wishing to write in; no post was received.

Over a period of six weeks the email account was contacted 16 times, once by the same person twice.

Summary of responses as an objection

Of the responses received, 11 emails (2 from the same individual) recorded a very strong wish to see the scheme not go ahead. That wish was effectively recorded as an objection based on the following grounds reflected in most emails:

- A belief that the former residents of Four Houses Corner are not an appropriate group upon whom so much money is to be spent.
- To re-open FHC is to disrespect the memory of PC Andrew Harper and to disrespect his widow and family.
- The previous perceived behaviour of former residents and their use of the site will be happen again on the site re-opening.
- That residents returning are being provided too much accommodation.
- Re-opening the site is a poor use of taxpayers money.
- The cost of re-opening the site would be better used providing accommodation for homeless people.
- Generally overall costs are too much.
- Re-opening the site will reawaken the perceived sense of intimidation felt by local communities in relation to this Traveller site.

Summary of responses with general concerns and observations

In addition to the above, 5 other emails made no specific request for the scheme not to go ahead but raised general concerns about the site and the actions of the council. The summary points of those emails are as follows:

Summary of Individual Email Comment 1:

Tenancy agreements must include enforceable requirements for tenants to keep their sites tidy and be prevented from storing or dumping materials associated with vehicle scrapping, tarmacking, scrap metal and waste material generally.

Summary of Individual Email Comment 2:

The council has failed to supply clear and transparent information about the site and that the accommodation being provided and its budget should be used to help alleviate the housing crisis.

Summary of Individual Email Comment 3:

Tenancy agreements must include specific enhanced anti-social behaviour clauses and that such clauses must be enforceable.

Summary of Individual Email Comment 4:

Specific and detailed reference to clauses within Mobile Homes Act 1983 Agreements that state what tenants are required to do and what they cannot do while in occupation. A general observation these clauses were not previously enforced therefore causing the progressive historic degrading of the site.

Summary of Email Comment 5 (sent on behalf of a Parish Council):

Specific and detailed reference to clauses within Mobile Homes Act 1983 Agreements (MHAs) that state what tenants are required to do and what they cannot do while in occupation. A general observation these clauses were not previously enforced therefore causing the progressive historic degrading of the site and for which the council is as much responsible as past tenants. Going forward, to ensure the site remains in good order, MHAs need to be properly adhered to and those residents defaulting on the terms of the agreements should be removed from site.