



The countryside charity
Hertfordshire

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Standing up for Hertfordshire's countryside

Chay Dempster
Spatial Planning Unit (CHN216)
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall, Pegs Lane,
Hertford, SG13 8DN

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

17th March 2023 (by email)

Dear Chay Dempster,

Application no PL/0232/21
Land at Hatfield Aerodrome, Off Hatfield Road
Proposed application for the establishment of a new quarry on land at the former
Hatfield Aerodrome, including new access onto the A1057, aggregate processing plant
and other ancillary facilities, together with the importation of inert fill material
to restore the mineral workings

The above application has been brought to our notice following the submission of revised material including the response to the Regulation 25 request for further information last year. CPRE Hertfordshire has not previously responded to this planning application but we submitted comments to the Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan consultation with regard to overall concerns and the Ellenbrook (Hatfield Aerodrome) site allocation, and would wish to comment further as follows.

We remain concerned that the overall picture regarding the need for aggregates and minerals is inflated by the use of out-of-date population projections which will affect future demand for construction materials by over-estimating the amount of development required. The recent publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Prospectus which is likely to lead to NPPF amendments in the near future recognises this issue and we believe it would be inappropriate to determine such a large application in advance of a re-assessment of future construction needs.

The situation is particularly significant in the case of Ellenbrook as previously noted the site forms an important green gap preventing the coalescence of the expanding urban areas of St Albans City to the west, Hatfield to the east, Smallford to the southwest, and Colney Heath to the southeast. The Ellenbrook Country Park, although not formally designated as a Local Green Space, is a highly-valued and much-utilised green space by thousands of local people for walking, running, cycling, bird-watching and other recreation.

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CPRE Hertfordshire is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

President: Sir Simon Bowes Lyon, KCVO
Chairman: Allan McNab

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The site may be considered as Previously Developed Land but it has become a significant wildlife habitat which has altered the character of the area and its value to the surrounding communities. We will continue to press for the emerging Local Plan to take account of issues relating to the need for minerals extraction, particularly in the Green Belt, as well as the changing circumstances of existing allocations, as in this case where we support local planning authority and community concerns at the loss of open countryside.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Berry
Planning Manager