



Parish Council Office
Mortimer Library
27 Victoria Road
Mortimer
Reading
RG7 3SH
07436807543

✉ the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk
Web: www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

Mr J Holmes
Chief Executive Officer
West Berkshire District Council

02 October 2025

Dear Mr Holmes

Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan Review - "Land at West End Farm, Mortimer" (Policy SPS5.15)

Further to some exchanges between the Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council (SMPC) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) and WBC Planning officers regarding (what was then) the possibility of this proposed site coming forward in the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Local Plan, it now has.

As a result, and following meetings of the NPSG and of the SMPC Planning and Highways Committee, the SMPC Chairman recently wrote to B&DBC to set out SMPC's formal objection to the proposed allocation – please see the copy attached (it was also copied to various local MPs etc).

I am now asked to write to you on behalf of Cllr Andrew Richardson, the Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee, as follows.

As you will appreciate, although the site lies within Hampshire its location means the development would functionally substantially extend Mortimer, directly impacting services, infrastructure, and the character of the village (and at least treble the size of Mortimer West End, which looks to Mortimer for its services).

Although the attitude of WBC Planning was (so we are told), in effect, "let's wait to see if it makes the cut – if it does we [WBC] will then react", clearly now is that time - we believe the proposal raises significant cross-boundary concerns that require coordinated attention.

Please could you advise what approach WBC will be taking (or has taken?) regarding a proposal that has a substantial negative implication for Mortimer and, wider, West Berkshire, with no apparent (and certainly no obvious financial) benefits. It is SMPC's

view that, to protect one of its Rural Service Centres, WBC now needs to step in and formally object to the site being included.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Danielle Davis', written in dark ink.

Danielle Davis

Parish Clerk, Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council