



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Dawn Horton-Baker
Planning Officer
Surrey County Council
Cockshot Hill
Woodhatch
Reigate
Surrey

Our reference: BS26428

13 March 2023

Dear Ms Horton-Baker,

I write as the Member of Parliament for Runnymede and Weybridge in response to the planning application SCC Ref 2022/0190 – *“Demolition of existing crematorium buildings and removal of storage containers, temporary cabin and temporary cold store; and the construction of a new crematorium building incorporating chapels of rest, cremation hall and space for storage containers within storage yard, relocation of existing waste transfer facilities for hazardous and non-hazardous waste; and associated landscaping.”* at Silvermere Haven Pet Cemetery, Byfleet Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1DZ.

Many residents have contacted me raising concerns which I share. As with the previous application at this site SCC Ref 2019/0125, I am concerned about the bulk, scale and increase in use proposed by this application for development of this rural greenbelt site.

I summarise my objections as follows:

1. I do not believe that the justifications presented meet the test of ‘very special circumstances’ required to develop greenbelt land. The new buildings would be materially larger, used more often, and would emit more pollutants and odour than the present operation on the site.
2. The development would have a harmful impact on those living near-by and on the adjacent business. Silvermere Golf Club and Inn-on-the-Lake is well-known for its beautiful setting and several of the buildings and the pond on the site have recently been nominated for Elmbridge’s local heritage asset list. The large-scale use of the Pet Haven site as proposed in this new application would be of an inappropriate and detrimental scale to these residents, businesses and those who use Silvermere not just for its golf course but also for weddings, parties, and other notable events.
3. By the nature of the late withdrawal and re-submission of this application, a large number of resident concerns which were submitted in response to the very similar application will be disregarded. My constituents who responded to the 2019 proposals will no doubt feel aggrieved if they miss this opportunity to respond to a new submission that largely replicates the previous one, and may not be aware of the need to resubmit.

I would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions in your report on this application:

1. How are the existing levels of odour and pollution at Silvermere Haven Pet Cemetery being used to evaluate the impact of this application, especially given its proximity to the M25 and A3?
2. Should the application be successful, what confidence can my residents have that monitoring and enforcement of the facility will be undertaken to ensure it is not worsening odour or pollution issues in the local area? Has the Environment Agency been consulted about the need for future monitoring, and what was their response?
3. What modelling regarding has been done regarding increase in use, traffic especially on the A245, and volume of emissions for the nearby business and users at Silvermere Golf Club and Inn-on-the-Lake, whose reputation is built on its beautiful setting, and to the residents living near-by?
4. What assessment of local need has been undertaken for such an increase in incinerations of deceased animals?
5. What measures have been taken to advertise this consultation and alert residents to the need to re-submit any concerns they have? What reassurance can you give me that my constituents have been given ample opportunity and information to respond to this new application given their submissions for the previous application will not be considered as part of this new and very similar application?

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ben Spencer MP
Runnymede and Weybridge

Co-signatories:

Cllr Charu Sood, Weybridge St George's Hill ward, Elmbridge Borough Council

Cllr Harrison Allman-Varty, Oatlands and Burwood Park ward, Elmbridge Borough Council

Cllr Ananya Banerjee, Oatlands and Burwood Park ward, Elmbridge Borough Council

Cllr Hilary Butler, Oatlands and Burwood Park ward, Elmbridge Borough Council