

PLANNING COMMENT FOR APPLICATION REF: 5/2020/3022

Marissa Clare

2 Phoenix Walk

Object to Proposal

Planning Application – reference 5/2020/3022

I am in objection of the said planning application on the basis there is strong reason to believe the assigned Planning Officer Ms Sarah Smith has unfair bias, influence, and reason to conspire due to previous commitments as committee secretary of 'The Ramblers'.

As per 'The Ramblers Hampshire Area, Annual Report to 30 September 2019' which is available to view online; <https://www.hampshireramblers.org.uk/HampshireAGMAnnual-report%202018-2019.pdf>, states the following; 'The committee remained constant except for Sarah Smith standing down and Stephen Hudson taking over as Membership Secretary'.

The Ramblers is a charity committed to protecting green belt areas for dedicated walkers. In reference 'Third party comment - general (R) - Ramblers Association 11 March 2021' letter dated March 1st from the Ramblers Association initially, the charity took an objective stance to the proposed planning at Burston Garden Centre however, in the same letter retracted their statement to a natural stance if certain clauses are met "In this context the present application may be bringing forward proposals for a development which will in due course be consistent with local planning policy. We therefore take a neutral view of this application but ask the district council to take into account the following issue in its considerations of the balance between the very special circumstances and the harm to the Green Belt. This proposal is offering two very valuable additions to the rights of way network which are of benefit to both residents and the general public. a. A safe crossing of the A405 between bridleway 3 (BR03) and BR03A b. A new bridleway along the southern boundary of the site linking the existing BR03 and Lye Lane."

Coincidentally a letter later then addressed to Ms Smith reference 'Third party comment - objection (R) - 3022 FootpathSocietyBurstonGardenCare' dated 3rd March from 'The St Albans and District Footpaths Society' which is also a Registered Charity in support of an alike cause, stated the following "The Society support the comments in the letter dated 1st March 2021 from the Footpaths

Secretary for the St Albans District, Ramblers Association concerning the improvements to rights of way which this application is funding”.

Although Ms Smith stepped down from her commitments as Membership Secretary of the association it is blatant she has demonstrated her will to conspire by utilising her influence and connections within the said charity and charities alike to write in support of a negative application.

It is clear neglect from St Albans City Council to allow a Planning Officer with influence of this nature to be the assigned Officer of any proposed plans, let alone such a large scale proposal within the local area. All planning no matter of size deserves a fair process with a zero tolerance approach to influence or corruption. On this occasion, this standard has clearly not been met and is unacceptable.