



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN

Submitted online <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

10 August 2023

Dear Sirs

Land at Sondes Place Farm, Westcott Road, Dorking

Planning Reference: MO/2023/0188

Appellant's name: Gleeson Land

Appeal Reference: APP/C3620/W/23/3324631

I refer to the appeal above and refer to email correspondence between WVA and PINS on 4 and 5 July 2023.

You will be aware from the correspondence relating to this case that WVA has already made representations to Mole Valley District Council on behalf of the Westcott community in letters dated 21 March 2023 and 22 March 2023 and these are attached for reference.

Mr James Leaver

Melrose

Logmore Lane

Westcott

Dorking

Surrey, RH4 3JY

jamesandfrancesca@hotmail.co.uk

WVA are disappointed that a decision was made to conduct this appeal by Public Inquiry. WVA would have been in a position to take an active role in this appeal if the decision had been made to allow a more accessible, time and cost-effective procedure.

PINS' suggestion that WVA can take an active role by applying for Rule 6 status is appreciated. However, this fails to recognise that a Residents Association, or the community it represents, does not have the financial resources to instruct professionals who can match the expertise and extensive resources which are more readily accessible to the Council or the appellant. WVA is run entirely by volunteers.

Can the Planning Inspectorate reassure us and explain how the views of the WVA will be shared and by no means diminished by the lack of professional representation at the Inquiry?

We sincerely hope that the chosen procedure in no way dilutes the valid concerns and strength of feeling raised by WVA on behalf of the community it serves and that appropriate weight will be given in the context of existing local and national planning policy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Leaver', written in a cursive style.

James Leaver

Planning Lead, Westcott Village Association

CC - Cllrs Magesh, Budleigh and Mursaleen-Plank

Encs