



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Westcott Village Association

Westcott

Dorking

Surrey

contact@westcottvillage.com

Planning Department
Mole Valley District Council
Pippbrook
Dorking
Surrey, RH4 1SJ

7 October 2024

Dear Sirs

MO/2024/1464 Institute Road, Westcott RH4 3NP and 'The Hut' site, Furlong Road, Westcott RH4 3PP

Erection of a modern replacement community building (Use Class F2) on the site of the 'Westcott Village Hall', Institute Road following demolition of the existing building; redevelopment of 'The Hut' site, Furlong Road to provide 9 no. new dwellinghouses (Use Class C3) with associated access and landscaping

We refer to the above application and write in our capacity as a consultee in relation to planning matters on behalf Westcott Village Association (WVA).

You may be aware that the WVA occasionally makes representations on behalf of the Westcott community, principally with regard to compliance of applications with the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan (WNDP).

We confirm that we have been consulted by Westcott Village Hall Trust (the charity) and their advisers regarding this project. We fully support this planning application, which is important for the ongoing provision of community facilities in Westcott.

Specifically, we are pleased to confirm that:-

1. the charity has consulted with the community and existing Village Hall users prior to submission of the application and has their support;
2. the application addresses Policy WNDP 7 of the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan and takes the opportunity *“to enhance, re-provide and create new facilities”* for our village whilst replacing the existing village hall (which has reached the end of its economic life), with a larger facility. We are additionally satisfied that there is a demand for the new facility;
3. the evidence submitted with the application clearly states the extensive efforts which were made to retain the community use of the former Hut, which fell into decline and disrepair over many years. It has been a redundant site and building which has been beyond economic repair for at least 6 years, with no community organisation expressing an interest in using it. It has also been a very prominent eyesore and subject to vandalism;
4. the former hut site will deliver nine 2 and 3 bedroom houses for Westcott. The scheme complies with policies WNDP 1 (character), WNDP 2 (residential infill) and WNDP 4 (car parking provision) and makes an appropriate contribution to our housing need in the heart of the village;
5. the residential development will provide a significant proportion of the funding required by the charity to build the new village hall on Institute Road, which will transform the quality of community facilities available in the village.

Yours sincerely,



Westcott Village Association

CC Cllrs Magesh, Mursaleen-Plank and Budleigh