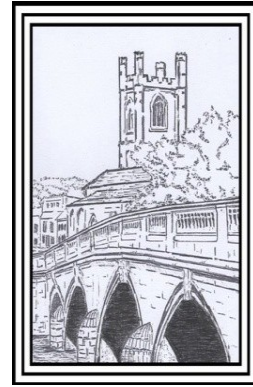


The HENLEY SOCIETY

**Working for the conservation of the Town's historical
setting
and its future enhancement**



**91 St Mark's Road
Henley-on-Thames
RG9 1LP**

5 December 2014

Mr Ian Jenkins
Planning Inspector for Thames Farm Appeal
Town Hall
Henley.

Dear Mr Jenkins

I am writing, on behalf of the Henley Society, to register a strong objection to granting the Appeal APP/Q3115/A/2217931 (planning application P13/S2184/O).

The location proposed for this development is in the parish of Harpsden and is therefore within the area covered by the Joint Henley/Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan, which is being formulated under the provisions of the Localism Act, is not yet finalised but is nearing completion. In our view, therefore, this attempt to forestall the recommendations of the Plan should be firmly rejected.

The reasons why the location is inappropriate for housing will, no doubt, be dealt with in detail by others but, briefly, it is a greenfield area in countryside between the Chiltern Hills AONB and the flood plain of the Thames Valley, with a substantial number of trees that contribute to its significant landscape value. It is separated from the outskirts of Henley by just over a mile and from the centre of Henley by almost 2 miles. Any development for housing would therefore encroach on the rural area that separates Henley from Shiplake and would tend to merge the two communities, contrary to the policy of the SODC Core Strategy. It would also create a precedent for further development along the A4155 thus contravening a long-established policy of maintaining a substantial and well-defined space between Henley and Caversham, Reading.

Yours sincerely

David Whitehead (Chairman, HS Planning Committee)

