

5th August 2017

FAO Mr. Michael Eastham

Dear Mr. Eastham,

Proposed Development Walberton

I am writing regarding proposed development in Walberton, a village that, as a visitor, I consider to be a real gem in West Sussex.

We are keen walkers and proud members of the National Trust, who, as a charity look after and protect the green spaces and historic sites of our countryside.

Throughout the year, along with my family, we have included the village of Walberton in our family walks, as this walk is accessible to all ages within our family group. Until last year part of our walk took us along through the recreation field and a path around the field, which I believe is known as Tupper's Field, onto the edge of the golf course and either onto Binstead, Arundel or Slindon and sometimes beyond. Always finishing back in Walberton and invariably the Holly Tree. Since early 2016 the whole field has been fenced off, with barbed wire - quite anti-social behaviour which is the only evidence of 'vandalism' in the village and no-one seems to know why?

I have now heard that the unspoilt nature of this village is under threat from developers, with the seeming 'collusion' of the planning department of Arun Council. Is nowhere safe? I live in the outskirts of North London and have seen the absorption of small villages into what is now just one big conurbation - all identity lost. Surely this should not be the fate of Walberton?

I realise that as a visitor I probably have no say in the matter, but the very reason Walberton is the village it is, is why we make regular trips there. However, if the village is to become like many other where inappropriate buildings are put up, and its uniqueness and identity is lost, then I am sorry to say that would be no reason for us to visit and that would be sad.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Clare Cowley