

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Paul Morrison
Chief Executive
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
BRISTOL, BS1 6PN

Copy sent via email to: paul.morrison@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

27th June 2023

Dear Mr Morrison,

RE: APP/U2805/C/21/3269943 - PEASDALE HILL FIELD, MIDDLETON, CORBY, LE16 8YP

RE: APP/U2805/W/21/3275791 - PEASDALE HILL FIELD, ASHLEY ROAD, MARKET HARBOROUGH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, LE16 8YP

I am writing in respect of the above appeals which I understand have been linked and are currently due before the Planning Inspectorate for determination. At this stage, I am unclear as to the specific timetable to which the Inspector is working, and would appreciate clarification of this.

As I have set out repeatedly in previous objections about these appeals at earlier stages of the planning process, I would like to again begin by stressing the unauthorised nature of the development in the first instance and the very worrying precedent that would inevitably follow a subsequent decision to permit development at the site. The rules around planning are there for everyone to follow, without exception - it's non-negotiable and I am absolutely steadfast in my belief that unauthorised, destructive development must never be encouraged or condoned.

Unfortunately, we have recently been seeing too many examples of our planning processes being abused in this way here in North Northamptonshire - about which I have raised separate, serious concerns with you and with Ministers - and I do worry that if these appeals were to be allowed, it would further signal a green light for future unauthorised development, with a highly undesirable precedent having been set. It is also fair to say that local confidence in the entire planning regime in the village of Middleton, and the surrounding area, is at rock-bottom, following previous decisions taken by the Planning Inspectorate, against local wishes and where similar fundamental issues have been at play. I cannot underscore this point enough.

There are of course several strong planning grounds for dismissing these appeals too. First, the site in question is located in the stunning rural landscape of Middleton and its surrounding area, and having read the initial proposed applications when they were before the local authority, the site would undoubtedly have an ongoing detrimental environmental impact, not just on the landscape itself, but on the future biodiversity of the area too. I am advised that this land has some historic value too.



Moreover, I understand that the entrance to the site is close to a sharp bend and there are concerns about the visibility of vehicles leaving and entering and the subsequent increased likelihood of road traffic collisions occurring in the area along Ashley Road. In addition, the lack of pedestrian access to the village from the site raises further highways related concerns. I understand that currently the only access to the village from the site is down an unlit narrow road with no footpath or verge and there are no speed restrictions. Undeniably this is unacceptable.

Residents have also highlighted to me that, granting these appeals would significantly increase the number of these types of sites around the village and would disproportionately burden the local infrastructure. I would strongly urge you to consider this when evaluating the suitability of this location.

On these grounds, I wish to state that I fully associate myself with the ongoing objections raised by local residents, Middleton Residents' Action Group (RAG) and Middleton Parish Council, and urge that their wishes are respected, and the planning appeals be dismissed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove'.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**