



Holybourne Village Association (Founded 1971)

Dear Fiona,

Thank you for your recent request to arrange engagement with local residents regarding groundwater and surface water flooding at the above site. The residents concerned have asked that any communications be channelled through the Holybourne Village Association (HVA).

We note that the request follows the *Hampshire County Council Lead Local Flood Authority's* (LLFA) formal objection of 5 January 2026, in which the LLFA:

- Confirmed that the submitted Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is “*not appropriate*” and does not sufficiently describe existing flood risk
- Raised concerns regarding groundwater displacement and downstream impacts
- Required a full hydrogeological assessment with groundwater monitoring before determination
- Recommended that discussions are held with local residents in addition to, not instead of, the technical evidence required.

*Holybourne Village Association* (HVA) exists to represent the interests and wellbeing of the village. We must therefore ensure that any engagement is fair, proportionate, transparent, and unmistakably in the community's best interests.

During the 2025 consultation, more than 500 objections were submitted. Despite this exceptional level of public participation - including extensive photographic, video, and written flood evidence - ***none of these concerns appear to have been acknowledged or addressed within your amended submission.*** The updated FRA continues to underrepresent known groundwater flooding behaviour, including the volumes, duration, and variability of the site's seasonal springs.

We also note that your amended documentation was submitted immediately before the Christmas period, resulting in EHDC having to run a statutory re-consultation over the busiest time of year. Even so, over 300 additional objections were submitted during the shortened holiday window, reflecting the strength and consistency of local concern.

Residents have already invested significant time, energy and personal resources documenting flood risk, heritage constraints, Local Green Space harm, landscape impacts, settlement hierarchy conflict, transport issues, and infrastructure limitations. To date, none of these issues have been acknowledged or addressed by either the applicant or EHDC in any meaningful way. This lack of engagement with the substance of community submissions undermines confidence in the consultation process and has



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left many residents feeling frustrated and disenfranchised. They now deserve respite while EHDC carries out its statutory role and determines the current application in a timely manner based on the full body of evidence before it.

Given the above, HVA does not consider it appropriate to enter into, or facilitate, any further engagement with you (the applicant) while the application remains under determination.

Any such engagement risks creating parallel processes, undermining transparency, or complicating the proper assessment of evidence by EHDC and statutory consultees.

Once EHDC has issued its decision, HVA will review its position and may be willing to consider further correspondence-based engagement, subject to appropriate caveats and safeguards. Until then, any dialogue would be premature and would not be in the community's best interests.

Kind regards,

Rob Law  
Chair, Holybourne Village Association  
On behalf of the Holybourne Village Association and affected residents