

For the attention of: David Eaves

Planning reference: APP/20/00658

**Site location: Proposed Development site (former Electricity Board site),
Bartons Road, Havant**

Proposals: Mixed-use development comprising 191 apartments and two drive-through restaurants, together with associated access, parking and landscaping

Thank you for sending us this consultation. Please accept this response as being that of the Countryside Service, in relation to this application we are responding on behalf of Hampshire County Council as Highway Authority in respect of Public Rights of Way and Commons Registration Authority. We also manage Country Parks and Countryside Sites throughout Hampshire.

Site Context: Staunton Farm and Country Park Hampshire County Council Countryside Site is to the North of the development site and the Shipwrights Way HCC Long Distance Route runs along Petersfield Road to the West.

A copy of the Definitive Map of Rights of Way can be found at
<https://maps.hants.gov.uk/rightsofwaydefinitivemap/>

Comment:

The development is within 720 metres of Staunton Farm and Country Park which would act as the nearest available public open space to the development. The park is approximately 85 hectares and is a listed Regency landscaped parkland. The parkland is a vital green space for the local community providing a venue for walking, running, dog walking, fishing, cycling, picnics and playing. Making it a Destination Open Space which described in the Havant Open Space Strategy if they are over 10 hectares in size and considered particularly important due to their range of multifunctional uses and activities and, as such, mean residents are likely to travel further to access them. The park has established relationships with Parkrun (approx. 400 local people per week) and Leigh Park Dog Walkers (approx. 100 regular visitors). Our research indicates that approximately 27% of park visitors live within a 2 mile radius of the park. Given the close proximity to the site the residents of this development are more likely to visit the park as there is no on-site open space.

We would expect a development of this scale within 720m of the Staunton Country Park destination facility which does not provide on-site open space to provide a contribution to the Countryside Service towards any enhancement of the local Staunton Country Park which should be secured by legal agreement prior to granting planning permission. In the absence of any local improvement of access to Public Parks and Gardens and increases in capacity and enhancements at the Country Park or to the Shipwrights Way which provides access the proposals are not in line with Havant Local Plan Policies E1 and IN1 which states it is important to protect and enhance Staunton Country Park as a strategic open space which serves as a destination facility and provide contribution to improve off site green infrastructure.

We would be happy to discuss the opportunity to provide mitigation for the increase in residents with the Applicant and the Local Planning Authority. Please contact Countryside Planning at countryside.planning@hants.gov.uk.

Regards

Sam Thwaites
Countryside Planning Support Officer
Hampshire Countryside Service
countryside.planning@hants.gov.uk

