

From: **Russell Packham**

Date: Thu, 9 Jul 2026 at 05:47

Subject: AWD/0737/26 - objection from local resident

To: planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk <planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk>

AWD/0737/26 - Land SE of Amberley Drive, Goring

To whom it may concern

Please find herewith my objection to the above planning application. Please note, for technical reasons I have struggled to submit this through the portal, so trust my comments will still be duly lodged.

My principal concern is not just with the various features of the proposal, many of which raise planning concerns in their own right, but with the long-term change it represents to land that has historically been protected as open countryside. The purpose of the Goring-Ferring Gap has always been to preserve an undeveloped landscape between settlements, maintaining its openness, ecological value and natural character. Over many decades, planning policy has consistently sought to resist development which would erode that purpose. While this application is presented as temporary and relatively modest, its cumulative effect would fundamentally change both the character and function of the site from open green land to an active commercial leisure destination.

I am also concerned by the irreversible impact on the natural environment. Once previously undeveloped land becomes occupied by structures, vehicle parking, commercial activity, overnight use and associated infrastructure, it is seldom restored to its former condition. Existing habitats, vegetation and wildlife inevitably come under greater pressure through increased human activity, lighting, noise and traffic. Even where mitigation is proposed, it cannot fully replace the value of an established natural landscape that has developed over many years.

Finally, I believe the Council should consider the wider precedent created by this application. The long history of planning protection for this land reflects an intention that it should remain open rather than gradually become commercialised. Approving incremental changes of use risks weakening those historic protections and making future, more intensive development easier to justify. For that reason, I believe the application should be considered not only on its individual components, but on the direction of travel it creates for this protected area.

This land has, for many decades, consistently been regarded and protected as open countryside through successive planning decisions and adopted planning policy. That long-standing approach reflects the recognised importance of preserving the openness and character of the Goring-Ferring Gap, and I believe significant weight should continue to be given to that established planning context.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Council refuses planning application AWD/0737/26 and continues to uphold the long-standing protection afforded to this important area of the Goring-Ferring Gap.

Kind regards

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