Objection to the application 8a Greenhill PL/2023/10744
Please reference my objections to the previous iterations PL/2022/08676 (Refused) and PL/2022/04801 (Withdrawn by applicant)
This land remains subject to enforcement notice ENF/2022/000108 and PCN enforcement notice A-7052 dated 28/09/2023.

I strongly object to this application due to the increased noise levels, damage to the countryside, damage to open land, poor design, appearance and layout and failure to adhere to the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 and Core Policy 34 of Wiltshire Core Strategy.

I urge Wiltshire Council to refuse this retrospective application again and enforce a return to its previous state as agricultural land.

After purchasing the property 8a and land in February 2021, in October 2021 the applicant threw down tonnes of black hardcore and erected wooden closeboard fencing to create an extensive trailer/car park for personal and commercial use which is totally out of character with the surrounding area. It is highly visible from both the road, public footpath and adjoining properties. Light pollution abounds and annoys from always-on interior and exterior lights at the property – installed as a security measure for the vehicles and property at the rear. This has caused a loss of green space in an era of climate change.

The apron to the highway is also loose black hardcore and not tarmac as per Wiltshire Council required standards.

Prior to February 2021, the previous owners proudly retained this agricultural field for decades. Occasionally grazing a horse/donkey or two when their fields at the bottom of Greenhill became too wet. They never had a need for any hardstanding whatsoever and strictly kept the gate padlocked to protect its green look and status.

The land has not been owned by the applicant for 7+ years or used as a parking yard as the application states.

8a Greenhill is a 3-bed cottage, with 3 (seldom used) parking spaces to the front. The 493m2 of hardstanding the applicant has laid (and was refused in PL/2022/08676) is totally disproportionate to the size of the property. Despite the refusal on 07/09/2023 the applicant has continued to use the area to park a merry go round of domestic and commercial vehicles, dump commercial waste in a skip and on a bonfire, store gas cannisters, whelp puppies and so on. This all creates noise, smell, stress, an impact on neighbour privacy and environmental damage.

No proper need has been demonstrated for the requested change of use from agriculture.

No definition has been provided of what use the applicant is seeking (as per the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987). In the previous version PL/2022/04801 the applicant was requesting a change from agricultural to B2 General Industrial which was later withdrawn.

The applicant has painted a picture of children playing with ponies and learning to ride and care for them on this land. The reality is very different. The family are rarely present and have only on occasion been seen in the fields, using motorised vehicles and playing.

I have witnessed many vehicles in this parking lot, and many different vehicles which gives a good indication of how the parking yard is being used. With a 493m2 area the question must be asked what is the real intended use?



Examples of multiple vehicles

Other changes have been made that have been omitted from this retrospective application including (but not limited to) closeboard domestic fencing (on agricultural land).

The application also specifies that the two wooden sheds have remained in the same position which simply isn't true.



Mar 2021 Wooden sheds in original position.


Early Oct 2021. Diggers in 8a paddock, no sheds.



End of Oct 2021. Wooden sheds now moved.

The Lydiard Millicent Neighbourhood Plan emphasises the need to preserve agricultural land. This application reduces the amount of agricultural land. It would also place stress on the hamlet of Greenhill by reducing local amenity, for example, going against the overall objectives for the area which are to conserve and enhance its pastoral character, and to ensure that any new development respects the grain of the dispersed settlement in the area.

I note the recent refusal on appeal of PL/2021/04439 (appeal AP-36478) within the Parish – also requesting change of use from agricultural.

The applicant owns a yard in Lower Pavenhill (approximately a 6-min drive away) which is already hardcored, secured behind gates and away from residential properties, which is much better suited to storing their myriad of vehicles and trailers and waste.

The applicant proceeded with these works in the full understanding that the changes being made would require planning consent but chose to ignore the planning process. The reasons for refusal remain the same as for PL/2022/08676 – the work that has been done has resulted in harmful impacts to the residential character of the area and to all the neighbouring properties.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns and objections to this retrospective application.