



Respecting the past, shaping the future

Press release from
Suffolk Preservation Society
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Rural tranquillity could be lost forever, society warn

Plans for a 55-bedroom care home on the edge of a cherished Suffolk heathland would erode the area's unique tranquillity and lead to huge increases in traffic using quiet country lanes, planning watchdogs have warned.

The Suffolk Preservation Society says the proposal, to demolish an existing building at Bucklesham Road in Purdis Heath and replace it with the much larger care home, would be "completely contrary" to the character of the area.

As well as generating huge increases in the amount of traffic using the surrounding single lane roads, the size of the development would dwarf neighbouring buildings, adversely affecting the quality of life of local residents, SPS says.

In its objection to Suffolk Coastal District Council, the society urges refusal of the plans, which it says are "completely unsuitable" for an area which lies on the edge of Ipswich and close to a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

"Approving this proposal would see the rural character of this important site lost forever," said Richard Ward, society director. "This huge care home would be totally out of scale with its surroundings, and would overshadow its neighbours and adversely affect the quality of life which the area's residents currently enjoy.

"On top of that, it would generate a large increase in traffic using the road leading to the site, which is a single lane with no pavement and simply couldn't cope with many more cars. The noise and pollution this extra traffic would create would erode the area's tranquillity – which is something we find unacceptable."

The society said the application also put the future protection of mature oak trees under threat – many of which are subject to tree preservation orders.

"We should be doing all we can to protect such trees, which make an extremely important contribution to the area's character," added Mr Ward. "We are concerned that approving this application would place those trees at risk due to the sheer nature and size of the development.

"We would urge planners at Suffolk Coastal to reject this proposal at the earliest opportunity – or risk losing the distinctive character of this important site forever."

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Note to editors:

SPS, founded in 1929, originally worked to protect the county's buildings and landscape. Today, the society has broadened its focus to help shape Suffolk's future, largely campaigning for sensitive and appropriate development, more and better quality affordable homes and to ensure sustainable infrastructures are in place to support the county's communities.

For more information please contact:

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