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Mr Tom Crowley
Chief Executive
Horsham District Council
Park North
North Street
Horsham, RH12 1RL

Dear Tom

DRAFT BROADBRIDGE HEATH QUADRANT PLANNING BRIEF CONSULTATION

I am writing to respond to the Council's consultation on the draft Broadbridge Heath Quadrant Planning Brief.

In our view the planning brief appears to be designed more to increase the value of publicly owned land than meet the future needs of Broadbridge Heath or Horsham town.

In suggesting that an increase in retail and restaurant use could be appropriate it contravenes the town centre first policy in the NPPF and HDC's own draft Horsham Town Plan.

It is inconceivable that any further such development in the Broadbridge Heath Quadrant would not be detrimental to the vitality and viability of Horsham town centre. Instead, the brief should require any new development to concentrate on providing for the local needs of Broadbridge Heath after the completion of the new housing development in ways which complement the current Broadbridge Heath economy. There is no case for expanding the existing supermarket and the brief should make it clear that this is not an option.

The sections on accessibility and connectivity are confusing and seem at odds with reality. Improving access for pedestrians and cyclists may be laudable but the nature of the development suggested in the Brief make it unlikely they would form the usual mode of travel. Increasing the current retail and restaurant offer still further would inevitably increase vehicular traffic and put more pressure on Farthings Hill roundabout.

Yours sincerely

John Steele
Secretary, Planning Sub Committee