Old Malt Cottage,

 Down End,

 Hook Norton,

 Banbury,

 Oxfordshire OX15 5LL

 16th November 2014

Application no: 14/01738/OUT

Applicant name: Nursery Ground Ltd

Outline: Development of 48 houses, open space and landscaping

Location: Land north of Railway House Station, Hook Norton

Parish: Hook Norton

Dear Mrs Griffiths,

I am writing to formally object to the above development.

This is unsustainable development. As you will be aware, the green-field Bourne Lane development has been approved, despite the dissent of villagers. A further green-field site near the school for 54 houses has been refused by Cherwell District Council, but has gone to appeal. An additional 48 houses would represent a very significant expansion of the housing stock of the village, which is neither of the scale or type needed by villagers as outlined in the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan.

The proposed expansion of village housing stock of almost 25% is not sustainable economically, environmentally or socially.

The proposed application is on a green-field site.

The village streets are narrow, congested and hazardous currently. The roads to and from the village are country lanes and are not suitable for a population mass quickly growing into a town, contrary to Cherwell District Council’s own stated aims in its draft Local Plan.

I moved here with my daughter 18 months ago, and despite having family in the village, and buying a house in the village, was unable to obtain a place for my daughter at the village school. The village school is under pressure and the proposed expansion of the school would be insufficient to meet any additional demand.

Cherwell District Council’s has stated that it aims to concentrate future development in Banbury and Bicester, and protect rural villages. Approval of the Bourne Lane application was shamefully contrary to this stated aim, as would this new cynical application.

This application is opportunistic and takes advantage of the lack of formal up-to-date local plans from Cherwell District Council, and ignores the draft plans. It also runs contrary to the requirements and wishes of villages as outlined in the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ingird Ferguson