

Vanessa Cummins
Schools Planning Officer

03302 223046 (Direct)
Vanessa.cummins@westsussex.gov.uk

www.westsussex.gov.uk

Ground Floor, Northleigh
County Hall Campus
Tower Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RQ



3 March 2023

Mr Andrew Robbins
Senior Planner
Chichester District Council Planning Department
East Pallant House
Chichester
West Sussex PO19 1TY

VIA EMAIL
dcplanningshared@chichester.gov.uk

cc. Graham Olway, Head of Org and Planning graham.olway@westsussex.gov.uk
Tracey Flitcroft, Principal Planner Tracey.flitcroft@westsussex.gov.uk

Dear Mr Robbins,

Re: Response to Rickmans Green Planning Applications

22/03131/OUTEIA | Outline planning application (with all matters reserved except access) for the erection of up to 492 dwellings (Use Class C3), education provision including primary school (Use Class F1) and associated access, footpaths, open spaces, landscaping and site infrastructure. | Crouchlands Farm Rickmans Lane Plaistow Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0LE &

22/03114/FULEIA | Erection of 108 dwellings (Use Class C3), and associated access and street network, footpaths, open spaces, plant, landscaping and site infrastructure. | Crouchlands Farm, Rickmans Lane Plaistow Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0LE

I am responding on behalf of the Education Department at West Sussex County Council (WSCC). We liaised on the masterplan last year, prior to submission, with DLBP planners (representing the landowners), maintained primary schools in the area (Plaistow and Kirdford, Loxwood and Wisborough Green) and strategic planners at WSCC and Chichester District Council on the need for a primary school.

At the time the developers asked for education advice on the need for a new primary school. As this was ahead of the Local Plan process housing numbers for the area had not been finalised or consulted on. Nonetheless, in order to encourage good place shaping, it was suggested a primary school site should be identified. If this was not required it could be taken out, rather than for education to ask for a school site later. This is a process we have used on other potential sites where we are unsure of the need for a primary school in a locality, as a primary school requirement is based on children not yet born or moved to the area. Through the process we have made it clear to the parties involved that a primary school would be unlikely to be required if Rickman's Green is a stand-alone settlement as there are currently surplus primary school places in the wider planning area.

We hope this letter will help manage the expectations of the local community about the certainty of a new school to serve Rickman's Green.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Vanessa Cummins.

Vanessa Cummins LLB (Hons) ALGM
Schools Planning Officer