

Annabel Allott
21 Clapham Common Westside
London, SW4 9AN



Soil Association

John Davies Esq
Colchester Borough Council,
PO Box 889,
Town Hall,
Colchester CO1 1FL
planning.services@colchester.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

Re: Application Number 090231 – Horkesley Park OBJECTION

I write to object to the above proposal, both as a Council Member of the Soil Association and as an individual who wishes to preserve the outstanding beauty of an important lowland English countryside.

The Soil Association has been researching and promoting organic farming as the key to sustainable agriculture since 1946. Its aim is to preserve the high nutritional quality of food in sufficient quantity to feed our population. In addition, it aims to maintain the genetic diversity of the agricultural system and its surroundings, including the protection of plants and wildlife habitats.

The Horkesley Park application represents one of the most damaging examples of degradation of the countryside. This type of development is backward looking, not developing solutions for the future. The potential damage is immense:

- * It will destroy fertile, sustainable farmland which should be preserved.
- * Erode high quality soil.
- * Damage the livelihoods of local agriculturalists and small growing businesses. The proposed 'market' for which an entrance fee would be charged is no benefit to visitors or local growers.
- * Upset the fragile eco-system in an area rich in plants and rare wildlife such as soprano pipistrelle bats, skylark and turtle doves.
- * Squander water, which is becoming an increasingly rare commodity.
- * Pollute the environment with cars, trucks and coaches.

It is quite clear to me that the 117 acres should be reserved for growing. May I draw your attention to the opportunity for tomato growing on the site, and there are other opportunities for developing a profitable agriculture based business which could support the local community.

I trust that you will not consider the proposal in a favourable light, and help save our environment for future generations.

Yours sincerely