Redditch Borough Council Planning Committee

Committee Updates

Update number 3.

22nd October 2026

23/01237/CPE 6 Moors Lane, Feckenham
No Updates

26/00950/FUL Redditch Play Council, The Children's Centre
No further Updates

25/00888/FUL Land at Wheaten Hill Farm, Astwood Lane
Following publication of the second committee update, officers received a supplementary objection from Dr Hammersley, Technical Adviser to FABSSS. Dr Hammersley requests that the correspondence be circulated to members and advises that substantially the same information had previously been sent directly to Planning Committee members on the evening of 21st October 2026. The submission largely reiterates concerns previously raised in relation to fire safety matters and refers to recent correspondence between the Redditch Standard and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS), which has previously been addressed in second committee update. The objection questions whether HWFRS has expressly confirmed receipt and review of Dr Hammersley's August 2026 fire safety report and whether separate conclusions have been provided on a number of site-specific matters, including landscaping adjacent to the battery compounds, potential dust contamination from a neighbouring aggregate operation, the relationship between proposed firefighting infrastructure and overhead electricity transmission lines, nearby receptors including Imagination Street, emergency vehicle access arrangements and contaminated firewater management. The submission further contends that alterations to proposed landscaping or other mitigation measures, if required in response to fire safety concerns, could potentially affect the landscape strategy, visual mitigation and biodiversity net gain calculations relied upon by the application. On this basis, it is suggested that further assessment should be undertaken before a decision is made. **<u>Officer Response</u>** Officers have reviewed the supplementary objection and note that it raises no new material planning considerations beyond those already addressed within the published report and previous committee updates. The matters relating to fire safety, firefighting water containment, emergency response planning, emergency access, sensitive receptors, overhead transmission infrastructure and landscaping have been considered in detail within Sections 16 and 21 of the Officer Report. The fire safety report prepared by Dr Hammersley formed part of the information available to the Local Planning Authority during the determination of the application. The matters raised within that

report were taken into account in the officer assessment and were the subject of further consultation with HWFRS. Whilst no additional formal written response was subsequently received from HWFRS, the Fire Service has not amended or withdrawn its previously stated position and continues to support the use of planning conditions requiring the submission and approval of detailed fire safety information prior to development proceeding.

Furthermore, the concerns identified by the objector regarding firefighting water containment have been considered by both the Environment Agency and North Worcestershire Water Management, neither of whom object to the proposal subject to conditions. Similarly, HWFRS has raised no objection subject to the recommended planning conditions requiring a Detailed Battery Safety Management Plan and a site-specific Emergency Response Plan. These matters are discussed fully within the published report.

Accordingly, the supplementary objection does not alter the officer recommendation.