



By email: Helen Skinner
<HELEN.SKINNER@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

16 September 2026

John Hale
County Councillor
Colney Heath and Marshalswick

37 Chandlers Road, St Albans,
AL4 9RT

Phone: 07387 085502

Email:
john.hale@hertfordshire.gov.uk

3346607 - Land at former Hatfield Aerodrome, Hatfield

Application Reference: PL/0232/21

Land at the former Hatfield Aerodrome, Hatfield Road, Smallford, AL4 0HP

Re: Town and Country Planning Act 1990 –Section 78 Appeal by Brett Aggregates Ltd

NPPF 2026

Thank-you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the relevance of NPPF 2026 to the arguments I have previously made in respect of the above planning application. As you know since 2017, when I was first elected to the county council, I have objected to the applications for quarrying on this site.

Having read NPPF 2026 I believe it adds further weight to the arguments against a quarry on this site, because the site is part of the Ellenbrook Country Park, which is an important public amenity that should not be lost.

I consider that Chapter 16 Promoting Healthy Communities has significant impact, and specifically section HC7, which states:

Development affecting existing recreational land and facilities

1. Development proposals should not result in the loss of existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, other formal and informal play space and allotments, unless:

a. An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or

b. The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a location which offers comparable or improved accessibility for the community it serves; or

c. The development is for public service infrastructure, and the resulting loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and/or quality; or

d. The development is for alternative open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

If the application is measured against this policy it fails as the development of a quarry would result in the loss of existing open space with none of the exceptions applying.

Therefore, I remain strongly of the view that this application is unacceptable and the appeal should be denied.

Yours sincerely,

John Hale