



SMALL FARM TRAINING GROUP

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To whom it may concern;

Re: Ecological Land Co-operative (ELC) planning application for residential smallholdings on agricultural land at Wilbees Farm, Arlington, East Sussex.

The Small Farm Training Group is an active group of small farmers and smallholders with 250 members in the East Sussex, West Sussex and Kent area.

We support our members by providing training courses, meetings, social events, displays at agricultural shows, tool hire, a library, a newsletter and a web forum. Our group provides the opportunity for our members to share information and skills, buy and sell goods and services and to socialise.

Our members play a very active part in the rural economy, providing a wide variety of food and agricultural products for home consumption and for sale at farm gate or through local markets.

We know that smallholdings can be highly productive and have many social, environmental and economic benefits.

We are concerned by the current trend of increasing agricultural property prices and a lack of new entrants to smallholding, particularly by younger people, which we believe is the main cause of a decline in new membership applications to our group.

We are not politically active, nor involved in planning applications concerning individuals. However, we support and welcome the proposed smallholdings at Wilbees Farm, Arlington.

Signed, on behalf of the SFTG.

Marlene Holter

SFTG Chairman