

The Old Post Office

Sibford Gower

Banbury

Oxon OX15 5RT

6th November 2024

Dear Sir, Madam

Re: 24/02664/PIP the pheasant Plucker's inn, Burdrop – formally the Bishops Blaze.

Again I am writing to you, to ask you to refuse this application. I have objected to many applications that have been made in the past and even attended a very fair 4-day meeting at Bodicote house with the planning inspectorate from Bristol. The inspector also visited Burdrop, Sibford Gower and Sibford Ferris.

Burdrop is a very historical, small and beautiful hamlet adjoining Sibford Gower. It is in the heart of the conservation area. It is at the top of the hill, which leads down to the Sib with Sibford Friss on the other side of the valley.

All the roads into and out of Burdrop are Narrow Steep and Bendy with poor visibility. The road though Burdrop is narrow, single track, with two blind bends.

No main roads pass though these villages, only country lanes, which are in a poor state of repair with ruts at the sides and potholes, which can be very dangerous even more so in wet weather and the dark. The nearest main road is the B4035 between Banbury and Shipston-on-Stour.

To drive to Banbury we have to pass though Swalcliffe, with a narrow, blind bend by the church, Tadmarton, which is entered with shape bends and is also narrow with a blind summit in the middle and many cars parked on the road side narrowing the road further. Broughton, which has shape bends on entering. The state of this road is poor with no sign of improvement.

The conservation area includes Burdrop, Sibford Gower, Sibford Ferris, the Sib Valley and the very beautiful landscape around these villages. Sheep used to graze the fields below Burdrop including the field below The Pub, a vista of true timeless countryside.

I think I am right in saying the Bishop Blaze was the protector of sheep.

As a parent of sons it was a great comfort to know that our sons were with their friends at the Bishop Blaze, where they were able to walk and were looked after by Mr. and Mrs. Merchant the then owners. It was a true village country Public House; families were very welcome and on dry summers days would sit outside and enjoy the country views over the open countryside around the Sib valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Noquet have lived here for a number of years and have had plenty of time and chances to sell the Bishop Blaze Public House now the Pheasant Pluckers Inn, they have chosen not to. After the number of different planning applications they have made, since moving to Burdrop, it is now very clear that they never had any intention of running the Pub and have only ever been interested in developing the property.

Please may I ask you again to refuse this application to develop the car park of the Pheasant Pluckers Inn.

My reasons are:

Every public house needs a car park.

In 2024 one has to realise that, in the countryside villages without a regular bus service the residents need a car to go to work, for shopping and for family and social life. Every house will need parking for up to four cars.

The road though Burdrop is unsuitable for large heavy lorries delivering building materials, skips for removing earth when digging foundations and the disturbance of laying on water, electricity and drainage.

The lorries and structural work may well cause damage to the existing properties.

I think, we should be thinking about the extra traffic travelling though and the residents living in other villages, such as Swalcliffe, Tadmarton and Broughton when traveling to Banbury or upper and lower Brailes when traveling to Shipton-on-Stour.

Development on this property will seriously intrude on the conservation area spoiling the vistas.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Mary Mulley