

Date:

Development Management
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
Bodicote
Banbury OX15 4AA

Address:

Park House
The Lane
Chesterton
OX261UX

Ref: Great Lakes UK Ltd – Application Ref: 19/02550/F

To whom it may concern,

I whole-heartedly object to this application for a large-scale water theme park in the small village of Chesterton, numbering 750 residents. I have severe concerns about the large-scale construction of this development which I believe will irreversibly change our landscape forever and damage our environment.

This is currently a stunning greenfield site providing a healthy sporting facility, which will be lost to a vast and inappropriately sized concreted area with large uncharacteristic buildings for a small village. The 900-space car park indicates the anticipated huge volume of extra traffic that will be travelling to and from the site, bringing with it a substantial increase in noise pollution, not to mention a decrease in air quality and potentially adding to the associated health issues currently being identified nationally.

This will be a private resort attracting a proposed 500,00 visitors, and their vehicles, annually into an area already suffering from severe traffic congestion issues on the M40, A34, A41, A4095 and B430. The infrastructure of the area will simply not be able to sustain this proposed development, to the detriment of thousands of residents and businesses. The conference facilities will also attract an unknown but substantial extra number of car movements and resulting congestion.

Economically, the development will provide very little benefit to the local area, which already has very low unemployment. It's requirement to employ 600 lower skilled staff will either attract employees away from existing local businesses (already struggling to find staff) or necessitate distanced new employees travelling into the site, thereby increasing car journeys further. (There is no provision for staff accommodation on site). These low-skilled employment opportunities are also contrary to Cherwell's strategic aim of prioritising knowledge-based investment as a priority

I also don't believe that this meets Cherwell Councils vision for a clean and green Oxfordshire having recently declared a climate emergency. Achieving a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 will be impossible with the proposed infrastructure construction and increased vehicle traffic. Also taking away the green space to be concreted over cannot achieve the aim of increasing biodiversity.

Once again, I strongly object to this unwanted and unneeded proposal, completely out of keeping with its rural location, and ask that it be refused.

Yours sincerely

Owen Evans