Comment for planning application 19/02708/OUT

Application Number 19/02708/OUT

Location

Bicester Heritage Buckingham Road Bicester

Proposal

Outline: - Provide new employment units comprising B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial), B8 (Storage) and D1 (Education) uses with ancillary offices, storage, display and sales, with all matters reserved except for access

Case Officer

Rebekah Morgan

Organisation

Name

Edward RICHARDS

Address

97 St Marks Avenue Salisbury

Type of Comment

Objection

Type

neighbour

Comments

To my mind this is an application by subtefuge to eliminate the real historic roots of the Bicester airfield which are, not surprisingly, flying. Adopting the analogy of the thin edge of the wedge, this development, while seeming remote from any current airfield operations, misses the point. Apart from some glaring omissions on behalf of the various experts deployed to promote Bicester Heritage's argument - of which the most obvious has to be "In preparing this report, we have not had any discussions with the current airfield users" - this application and the aviation aspects take a very narrow perspective. They do, for instance, completely ignore the fact that the FAST track will be located directly under the take-off path from 24 and also entirely remove the overrun area - several hundred metres - which current exist to support emergency actions. Moreover the archeological aspects are given short shrift with little or no attempt to preserve the history of the "bomb dump". Looking to the future, it is fairly clear that this is one of a long series of projects to be undertaken by Bicester Heritage, of which the outcome at some stage will be elimination of aviation from the airfield. I cannot support such a move given the central position the gliding centre at Bicester has had in the history of the area, of the RAF, and having providing training to countless individuals who have gone on to be major leaders in the world of aviation. My own involvement has stretched over more than 30 years at varying level of engagement. As always with applications like this, if it is rightly rejected there will simply be a revised application with some more mealy mouthed statements from experts who fail to consult with people affected. And inevitably one day Bicester Heritage will get their way. But that does not mean that objections at this stage should be ignored.

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Attachments