

Comment for planning application 20/01127/F

Application Number	20/01127/F
Location	Hatch End Old Poultry Farm Steeple Aston Road Middle Aston Bicester OX25 5QL
Proposal	Demolition of existing buildings. Erection of replacement business units, ancillary hub and associated external works.
Case Officer	James Kirkham
Organisation Name	Chris Watson
Address	Willowfield House, Fir Lane, Steeple Aston, OX25 4SF
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I live in the unnamed lane opposite the drive to Canterbury House with my wife and five children- that is the Lane which runs down past the preschool. We are objecting to this development on the grounds being addressed by the Parish Council, each of which we endorse and support. I also need to object on personal grounds because of particular factors which apply to the traffic going past and to/from our house. The traffic in Fir Lane is very difficult to navigate even now with the two schools right outside the exit of our lane into Fir Lane and the village hall right next door. During school drop off and collection and during village hall events, cars park on either side of the exit from our lane onto Fir Lane. Sometimes they park so close that our exit is partially blocked, so that we either can't exit at all or have to turn in the opposite direction to the one we want, but even if they are not doing that it is at best very difficult and somewhat dangerous to drive a car out of our lane and onto Fir Lane in either direction. It is impossible to see left or right until the car is so far out that it has virtually crossed to the far side of Fir Lane. This is dangerous and we have had several near misses. On top of that because there are so many cars coming and going at school time we often have to reverse into our lane again while the traffic sorts itself in Fir Lane (which is only one way because of parked cars). This can take some time; it slows down the traffic generally as the other cars have to wait for us to reverse, and again re-emerging is dangerous. This is already an unsatisfactory and risky situation. The extra traffic resulting from the proposed development will make this many times worse and I'd regard it as intolerable. Every worker, service worker (cleaners, security etc) and customer of the proposed development will have to arrive and leave by car, go to and from lunch and any breaks by car; all deliveries and waste collection will likewise have to go in and out by road. That being the case it is easy to see that with the school run happening at the beginning and end of working hours, several hundreds of journeys (many including lorries) will take place every day down this narrow, one track road. If each such journey takes only a conservative 30 seconds to navigate past our lane and the comings and goings at the Village Hall, (that may seem a high figure but if there's traffic it is not unusual and I've had to wait much longer) that would effectively mean that Fir Lane is blocked and impassable for 100 to 300 minutes a day. That's between one-and-a-half and five hours, One can quibble with the detail of the figures, but that is the scale of the issue. In addition it is not certain that all the cars using the development will actually use its parking; they may instead park in Fir Lane instead to get away more quickly. Moreover if the development is a big success there may indeed not be enough space for all employees, users and visitors of the development to park inside it, so they will also have to park in Fir Lane which will exacerbate the issue. I do not see how these issues can be dealt with adequately/satisfactorily given the scale proposed for this development.</p>
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Attachments	