

February 10 2021

20/01933/F (Wigginton)

CPRE has studied this application and is appalled by the proposal to build such a large multi-residential building in unspoilt countryside next to one of the most beautiful villages in Oxfordshire. We accept the need for farmers to erect new buildings from time to time, but we can see no justification for allowing a building without agricultural purposes to be plonked in such an idyllic rural spot.

Both the architecture and the materials of the proposed building are unsuitable for the area, where most houses are built in stone. 'Local democracy', as personified by the inhabitants of Wigginton, is strongly opposed to the scheme, which has its support only from people who live far away and won't therefore suffer from the loss of views and countryside which the project will inflict on the people who live in the village.

Last July, in its review of the Local Plan to 2040, Cherwell District Council stressed the importance of protecting 'valued landscapes', 'areas of tranquility' and places without light pollution. As these categories describe the countryside around Wigginton as well as anywhere in the entire district, logically this application must be refused. Approval would be contrary to the Council's own professed policies. It would also imply that no rural site in Cherwell could be regarded as safe from development.

Sir David Gilmour FRSL
Chairman CPRE Cherwell District

