

The Swallows, Eastgate, Hornton, Banbury, Oxon.

Planning Application - 20/02453/F

**A fuel depot including ancillary offices, the installation of plant and hardstanding**

30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

The application for a fuel depot in the quarry next door to Hornton Grounds Farm is obviously an opportunist application. This is from an investor focused on trying to extract the most from the largescale purchase of agricultural land around this area. Who has found a company looking for relocation, and having already been refused a site elsewhere, has decided on a totally unsuitable location? So, with total disregard for whom it affects, the financial incentive for them outweighs any other considerations.

Although technically a 'brownfield site' this is a completely rural location and we have always understood that the permissions for mineral extraction required the land to be put back to agricultural use when mining ceased.

We already have several rural sites reworked for business use without any major objections from the local communities because they fit in with the local communities. This is predominantly a farming area, with a dedicated environmentally friendly farm that borders their property and a renowned Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast business. The impact to their business will be catastrophic as well as the impact on the wildlife and ecosystem that is being developed on their farm.

Like villages around the M40 we can clearly hear the traffic when the wind comes from the north, which must be several miles from our village. We also have the increased weekend noise from the motocross from the south and now another proposed infringement to the west. The ever-increasing creep north of Banbury has already impacted the dark night skies we enjoyed, and this application will add further to that light pollution. The political agenda is finally focusing on our planet, rewilding, looking after the ecosystems that sustain the planet we all live on, and trying to give the people of this planet a say in it's development.

From your own consultations you have recognised this area as an area that should be protected by applications just like this. You now have to carry through the actions from the words you've written in the many consultations and years of creating the documents you are planning to live by.

This will be obviously be phase one, Certas have already said they are expanding, it's a business, it will be planning to expand further. The landlord will be happy for them to expand and encourage similar businesses to rent space on the "now" industrial site if you allow this to go through. This won't just impact Hornton, where I've lived for the past 60 years, but all the local villages on the roads to and from the motorway system. The people of Wroxton and Drayton have had decades of trucks speeding through their villages and now you want to add to that! Then of course there will be all the villages affected north of the site.

The application has already been rejected, no more than 5 miles away, at Sugerswell Industrial Park by Stratford District Council. If it's not considered appropriate for an area already zoned as industrial, how can it be considered for a completely rural, agricultural setting? There must surely be a site closer to the M40 among the already heavily industrialised areas of Banbury that would be more appropriate. IF Cherwell District council really values the people it represents, if it really values the agricultural landscape it proposes to be a steward of, and recognises the area as one of outstanding natural beauty, it will NOT entertain this application in any way in the proposed location.

Kevin Wain