

Lynne Baldwin

From: Bob Neville
Sent: 30 November 2020 10:24
To: DC Support
Subject: FW: Re Proposed Fuel Depot at Hornton Grounds former quarry - ref no. 20/02453/F - scheduled for 10 December planning meeting

From: Chris Woodcock [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 November 2020 17:58
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Cc: Councillor Douglas Webb <Douglas.Webb@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>; Councillor George Reynolds <George.Reynolds@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>; Councillor Phil Chapman <CouncillorPhil.Chapman@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>; Steve Woodcock [REDACTED]; Chris Woodcock [REDACTED]
Subject: Re Proposed Fuel Depot at Hornton Grounds former quarry - ref no. 20/02453/F - scheduled for 10 December planning meeting

Dear Planning Committee members and officers

Reinforcing strong opposition, offering alternatives - and emphasising the need for this to be dealt with on 10 December

(Also see our submissions to the Planning portal of 9 and 27 October 2020)

As parishioners who have spent many hours studying this application and the proposed site, we're asking that you take a really good look at it. Several key facts and claims are incorrect or inaccurate. Other key points are completely omitted. In short, the application is deeply flawed - notably in terms of Highways aspects, water courses and landscape impact - and directly contrary to Cherwell District Council's current Local Plan and the criteria stated in preparing the 2040 Local Plan: Hornton Grounds is in the heart of the Ironstone Downs – an area designated for long-term special protection by CDC.

This proposed site was never intended as 'brownfield' – indeed, promises were made that it would be restored to agricultural use once quarrying was over. If you allow this fuel depot development it would be the beginning of the end for this part of the countryside. Consider, for example, that the same landowner owns, among other land in this area, the immediately-adjacent plot of former quarry, currently leased to a stone-

cutting yard but due to be vacated in the next few years. CERTAS' application already indicates expansion of buildings (see drawings) and vehicles. This is the thin end of the wedge.

In fact, the applicants have, more or less, re-submitted an 'identikit' application based on their failed previous application for a fuel depot at nearby Sugarswell Barns. Your reasons for refusing that application hold even more true at the Hornton Grounds proposed site.

Thank heavens this is scheduled for the 10 December 2020 Planning Committee meeting: the applicants, who set out with no intention of informing or consulting neighbouring villages, have had all year to apply CDC pre-application advice and to lobby. A decision is required. In our view, CERTAS need to understand, right now, that such Ironstone Downs sites are 'out of bounds' and, given that they have admitted they have not specified any other potential sites but these two, it's about time they identified and researched an appropriate and truly 'brownfield' site with designated primary highways access.

In particular, if CERTAS need to relocate from Banbury town, they should ideally be close to the primary road network - ie. the M40. We are aware that a site adjacent to the M40 is being promoted for general industrial use through Cherwell's HELAA: it is on the 'lit' section, allowing access to the M40 without entering a single residential street. Alternatively, the development off the Daventry Road seems appropriate for such a use.

As you can see from the level of local opposition, this is a deeply-felt issue and causing great concern in terms of precedent. Please ensure this application is refused on December 10 and that an appropriate, safe site, in line with CDC policy, be found instead. Many thanks – thousands of villagers in this area are relying on you.

Yours faithfully

Chris & Steve Woodcock

Eastgate, Hornton, Oxon

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