

Lynne Baldwin

From: Bob Neville
Sent: 03 December 2020 08:51
To: DC Support
Subject: FW: Objection to 20/02453/F

From: Ivan Ghio [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 December 2020 08:48
To: Bob Neville <Bob.Neville@cherwell-dc.gov.uk>
Cc: Planning <Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to 20/02453/F

Dear Bob,

RE: 20/02453/F - Hornton Grounds Quarry, Hornton

I hope this email finds you well. My partner recently commented on the above proposal, but I am aware that these comments have not been published and would like to ensure that they're logged along with the many, many other objections in advance of the meeting on the 10 December 2020. I have added my own comments at the end. As follows:

I would like to object to the current planning proposals regarding an application for a fuel depot near to Hornton Grounds Farm in the strongest possible terms and for the following broad reasons:

1. Potential dangers regarding presence of flammable fuels, including leakage into environment and/or water
2. Negative impact of increased noise and light pollution in an AONB. We live in a beautiful, quiet corner of North Oxfordshire that would be blighted by the presence of a fuel depot.
3. Potential negative impact on wildlife.
4. Very likely negative impact on the established business of Hornton Grounds and, in turn, tourism in the local area, including visitors to Upton House and gardens.
5. Traffic in the local area - with potential dangerous implications for Wroxton, Drayton and Sun Rising Hill.

Can I implore you to consider the vast amount of objections to this proposal and suggest that a more suitable location is sought for the fuel depot that is not within beautiful countryside and within close proximity of a village.

In addition to the above, I seek to urge you to adhere to Cherwell District Council's own vision for the future (2040) and protect our precious Ironstone Downs from development that seeks to further the usage of fossil fuels at a time when we should be doing everything in our power to invest in renewable energies and protect our green spaces for future generations. I know how hard Cherwell District Council (CDC) works to be at the forefront of conservation measures and eco-friendly incentives. I am at a complete loss as to how the proposed development could ever align with CDC's ethos and the future vision for the district as laid out in *Planning for Cherwell to 2040*, which, as you are aware, sets out ways in which the Council aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and be at the forefront of climate change initiatives. It seems impossible to me to justify CDC supporting a development that promotes the use of fossil fuels, when CDC's own vision, importantly, seeks to minimise a reliance on these. Similarly, the aforementioned vision document includes reference to the following policy aims:

- *Secure cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by planning new development to:*
- *Deliver the highest viable energy efficiency, including the use of decentralised energy;*
- *Reduce the need to travel, particularly by private car; and*

– *Secure the highest possible number of trips by sustainable travel*

Again, I find it hard to fathom how the current development could ever fit in with any of the above aims. How will placing a development in a location that solely relies on employees commuting to the site by motor vehicle seek to support sustainable transport and reduce the need to travel by private car? Sustainable travel to the proposed site is not an option and Certas's employees will need to travel to work by car. It seems pertinent to point out here that viable site alternatives, that may or may not include sustainable transport solutions, have been identified, but do not appear to have been adequately considered. I do understand that a balance is required and that it is important, particularly as we start to see the economic impacts of Covid-19, that local infrastructure is supported - but I just cannot see how this development satisfies CDC's eco and environmental aims in doing so. It would also have a catastrophic impact on the existing small independent business of Hornton Grounds. Can a happy medium of relocating the Certas depot to an industrial urban site not be suggested? I feel that this would ensure that all aims and objectives are met. In addition, how does the current development deliver high energy efficiency? I would argue it will deliver exactly the opposite and perpetuate an outdated reliance on fossil fuels.

At the very beginning of the Vision document, CDC set out the following in relation to your environmental objectives:

"An environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy."

Again, I ask you, does this development help to improve biodiversity? Does it use natural resources prudently? And does it minimise waste and pollution? I put it to you that the answer to all three questions is 'no'. And in fact it will likely have a negative affect on all three. There is also yet further mention here of CDC aiming to move to a low carbon economy.

Finally, CDC's Vision document identifies the Ironstones Downs as a tranquil space and the following is of particular note:

"Tranquil areas can be beneficial to our health, helping to reduce stress, and may also benefit the economy in attracting visitors to the area. The CPRE's tranquillity map (2007) indicates that our most tranquil areas are concentrated in the north west of the district in the ironstone downs, including part of the Cotswolds AONB, and in the south of the district in Otmoor. In preparing our new Plan we will need to consider whether to identify and protect those areas which are relatively undisturbed by noise and are valued for their recreational and amenity value."

2.43 Light pollution mapping shows high levels of light pollution above Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington and Yarnton, however there are still significant areas of the district with relatively low levels of light pollution, with the CPRE estimating that Cherwell is the 103rd darkest district out of 326 in England. Whilst artificial light can in some cases be necessary and beneficial it can also be the source of annoyance, have a detrimental impact on the character of the countryside, the tranquillity of an area and enjoyment of the night sky, and be harmful to wildlife.'

Again, I argue that the proposed development would be detrimental to CDC protecting a designated tranquil space and would negatively impact on a dark sky area, which CDC recognise as being of great importance. CDC have identified the following as a key issue:

'The need to identify where development would be inappropriate. For example, identification of 'valued landscapes', areas of environmental or historic significance, and areas of tranquillity'

I argue that the current proposal is an example of where development would be inappropriate. Please help to set an example and stay true to your planning principles and uphold an apparent promise made to the local community to return the land back to agricultural land, thereby allowing the local community and tourists to enjoy the Oxfordshire countryside as nature intended and free from potentially dangerous pollutants. Stay true to your vision for 2040 and reject this proposal in favour of Certas being supported to relocate their site to a more environmentally sustainable site that allows their employees easier access and

has no detrimental impact on the surrounding natural environment, neighbouring conservation villages and a successful local business.

Please do feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss our objections further. I trust that these will be put forward to those involved in discussing these plans at the committee.

I kindly ask that in publishing this email you redact my email address and any further contact details that serve to identify me, other than my name and the first line of my address.

Many thanks.

Best wishes

Dr Ivan Ghio

The Berries, West End

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