

Comment for planning application 21/01123/F

Application Number	21/01123/F
Location	Hatch End Old Poultry Farm Steeple Aston Road Middle Aston Bicester OX25 5QL
Proposal	Demolition of existing buildings. Construction of replacement business units and associated external works. (Re-submission of 20/01127/F)
Case Officer	James Kirkham
Organisation	
Name	Bridget Lewis
Address	2 The Old Forge Studio,Paines Hill,Steeple Aston,Bicester,OX25 4SQ
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>My main objections to the application relate to the scale of the development and the associated traffic issues. Although the revised plan has reduced the number of units and the associated number of car parking spaces, the scale of the proposed development is still too large for this location. It is suggested the development will provide local employment and therefore these local employees will not be using cars to get to work, but will rely on walking, cycling or public transport. This is unrealistic. Not many people of working age live within walking distance of the site, and only a proportion of those would be seeking new local employment. There are no pavements between the site and either of the adjoining villages of Steeple Aston or Middle Aston, and street lighting is minimal. During the winter, this is an obvious hazard. Employees from other villages in the locality are unlikely to walk to the site and cycling would involve either steep hills or busy main roads, neither of which are conducive to commuting this way. The public transport provision to the site is limited. Middle Aston has no public transport provision. Steeple Aston is served by the buses going between Oxford and Banbury but the buses are not frequent and to get to the nearest bus stop requires going up and down a steep hill. This hill is also on the route to the nearest train station in Lower Heyford. In reality, most of the employees would arrive by car, resulting in an increase in traffic in the locality. The majority of this would be concentrated at the start and end of the working day. At present, these are Steeple Aston's busiest times of day, with children arriving at the school and preschool at the start of the day, and activities taking place at the Village Hall, Sports Hall and Recreation Ground at the latter part of the day. The roads around the site have difficulty coping now, with cars parked along the road and school buses needing access. The addition of extra traffic as a result of the proposed development would make the situation more chaotic, and is also a safety concern. The application seems to contravene Cherwell Local Plan 1996 Policy TR7, which is not supportive of development that would regularly attract large numbers of cars on to unsuitable minor roads. The proposed development would definitely attract large numbers of cars (for this locality) on to the local unsuitable minor roads. On these grounds, I object to this application.</p>
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Attachments	