

# Comment for planning application 22/03877/F

Application Number	22/03877/F
Location	Hatch End Old Poultry Farm Steeple Aston Road Middle Aston OX25 5QL
Proposal	Erection of three industrial buildings, replacement of former scout hut building and associated works
Case Officer	Katherine Daniels
Organisation	
Name	Peter and Jenny Bell
Address	Manor Court Cottage,North Side,Steeple Aston,Bicester,OX25 4SE
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>Below is our objection to the earlier application for these buildings sent to you in March. It seems to us that the latest changes will only serve to make matters worse. Reducing the number of car parking spaces will not reduce the number of vehicles coming to the site. It just means that more of them will park on an already narrow and dangerous road. And the refusal to provide a footpath along the road makes the situation even more dangerous, especially for children walking to school from Middle Aston.</p> <p>This is what we wrote in March:</p> <p>We have read Steeple Aston Parish Council's objections to these new proposals and agree with them. While placing the new buildings at the rear of the site makes this proposal more acceptable aesthetically, our main objection continues to be on the grounds of road safety. This new proposal is no more acceptable than the previous one which was refused last year because of the amount of extra traffic which will be generated on an already narrow and dangerous road. Given that most traffic to and from the site is certain to be through Steeple Aston, vehicles will not be able to avoid Fir Lane where a busy school, village hall, pre-school, playing field and church are clustered alongside a narrow roadway. For a long time, there has been concern in the village about the safety of children at school drop off and pick up times when there is already considerable traffic congestion. We have lived on the corner of Paines Hill and Northside for 27 years so see the volume of traffic passing on the route down Paines Hill to Fir Lane daily. From our kitchen window we see the traffic congestion, the hold-ups and the near misses that occur when school buses, HGVs, farm vehicles, delivery vans and cars converge on Fir Lane twice a day as parents take their children to and from school. There are often problems in the middle of the day as well when large lorries and agricultural vehicles etc meet. We think it's imperative that those charged with making a ruling on the application should visit the site itself at a time when parents are dropping off or collecting children from school. They should also check out all the potential access routes - through Middle Aston; through Steeple Aston via Southside, Paines Hill and Fir Lane; and through Steeple Aston via Northside and Fir Lane. None of these should have to take more traffic. We understand that Oxfordshire County Council's Highways officers who offered no objection to previous applications had no evidence for their stance. They had not done a survey, nor had they observed the site at school drop off and pick up times. Their cavalier attitude to the situation, and especially to child safety, is quite extraordinary and unacceptable. Before making any further comment, they should come in person to inspect the site at a busy time of day and explain why they aren't more concerned about the many dangers of a major increase in traffic in this Conservation Area.</p>
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Attachments	