

Application Number 18/00825/HYBRID

Andrew Lewis
Planning and Development Department Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
Bodicote
Banbury
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Dear Andrew

With regard to the above planning application I would like to make the following comments; I do not object to the application as long as it respects the policies of the MCNP and measures are put into place to protect the existing, long established communities surrounding the area.

Light and Noise Pollution

We request you pay attention to limiting the light and noise pollution to these surrounding communities and established farms on the periphery. (MCNP policy PD6: Control of Light Pollution should be used by CDC with each new development, in particular the new employment and sports facilities.

Traffic Mitigation

The impact of this development has already been experienced by our own community; we have seen increasing levels of traffic since development began. While we welcome the planned improvements to the particular pinch points we expect to see traffic increase as people find the route of least resistance. Somerton Village is mostly un-paved with high steep banks; most of the houses are facing out onto the road through the settlement. The PC has already funded a Speed Indicator device to encourage lower speeds which has helped reduce the average speed. I would like to see more but would also welcome expert advice on how to manage other areas in the village. I would like to see a reduction of the "national speed limit" on the Ardley to Somerton road to 40 mph with SID's in place as a reminder. This is an uncategorised narrow road with deceptive bends and a tricky single lane railway bridge to navigate. I would also like to see a weight restriction on this road to prevent its use by HGV's. The £25k s.106 is welcome but I think more is needed to address all our issues

Footpath and bridleway networks

I welcome the re-connecting of the old networks but at present they are not all workable or safe (as detailed in the Somerton Parish Council response). This is the perfect opportunity to improve them for a future legacy so please explore all possibilities to allow them all to be viable. Funding is needed to improve and divert them. Increasing footfall on old established footpaths will need to be addressed. There should be some signage regarding the Country Code. We have already seen, in recent years a lack of respect in this area, with regard to gates left open, (with live stock in the field), trespassing onto crops, dog fouling or worse, abandoned poo bags. The footpath through Troy Farm was established when farm labourers walked to work, it's not a safe environment for a "leisure route". The part of the route that goes directly through the farm should be re-routed and there should be S.106 funds set aside for this.

Yours sincerely

Alison Smith