**18/01333/F | Extension to existing Technical Site to provide new employment units comprising flexible B1(c) light industrial, B2 (general industrial), B8 (storage or distribution) uses with ancillary offices, storage, display and sales, together with associated access, parking and landscaping | Bicester Heritage Buckingham Road Bicester**

Stratton Audley Parish Council thanks Cherwell District Council for the opportunity to respond to the above consultation.

While the Parish Council has no concerns about the proposed extension to the technical site per se, it does have concerns about the current incremental approach the Applicant is using to make planning applications for development of the site. In addition to the employment units this application will make provision for 125 additional car parking spaces, the use of which will generate an increase in traffic from all directions around Bicester Heritage and have a major impact on the roundabout on the A4421. This will be compounded by the Hotel application on the site – which is also under consideration by the Local Planning Authority.

The increase in traffic along the A4421 from the north towards Bicester will be noticeable, and this will impact the residents of Stratton Audley – who will find it takes longer to access the Bicester facilities they need. Furthermore the increase in traffic towards this development will limit the mode of transport available for use by residents of Stratton Audley. There is one bus a day – taking residents into Bicester in the morning and returning at lunch time. For access at other times of the day car use is the only reasonable option. Cycling is not an option as the A4421 already presents a danger to pedestrians and cyclists danger and this risk will only increase since the application contains no proposals to extend the current cycleway beyond Cherwood House Care Home up to the Stratton Audley turn off.

The sustainable transport provisions offered to support the development include:-

A new pedestrian (2m wide) footway south of the existing site access, extending to the splitter island at Buckingham Road;

A new pedestrian (2m wide) footway north of the existing site access, extending to the existing southbound bus stop on Buckingham Road;

Provision of informal crossing point, across Buckingham Road (north of roundabout), comprising of dropped kerbs and tactile paving; and,

A 14-space cycle storage facility within the site. 4.6.2 The measures detailed above will increase the permeability of the site for employees.

All with the aim of encouraging employees to consider using sustainable transport options. Whilst the Parish Council has noted this commitment to sustainable transport it is disappointed that there are no provisions to improve facilities for sustainable transport to the north of the main entrance to the site on the A4421 by extending the current cycleway as suggested above.