

Longworth Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Alan Boyce
Tel:- 01865 820052

*Windmead House
Longworth
Abingdon
Oxon OX13 5DX*

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22 August 2011

Taufiq Islam
OCC Environment and Economy
Speedwell House
Speedwell Street
Oxford OX1 1NE

Planning Application MW.0080/11
Land alongside Pine Woods Road, Longworth

Dear Mr. Islam,

On behalf of Longworth Parish Council, I wish to object to the above Planning Application, on each and all of the following grounds:

1. The adjacent market garden's crops and its owners' livelihoods stand to be injured by the proposed excavation, by reason of dust blow and borehole water restriction. Proposals by the applicant, both in the application and separately by letter, to ameliorate these threats are merely theoretical, woefully inadequate and subject to no legally binding sanctions.
2. The statement in the application that the A420/Pine Woods Road junction is fit in its present form to carry safely the additional HGV traffic generated by the proposed sand excavation is supported by flawed calculations, inadequate data and false assumptions. Speed survey data is unverified, visibility splays are inadequate for safety, and Pine Woods Road itself will be rendered hazardous for road, foot and equestrian traffic. Despite the junction's adherence to road construction manuals, as detailed in the application, its accident record and the daily experience of local users indicate that the junction is, even in its present state, unsafe.
3. The application proposes excavation within 150m of residential properties, which is contrary to the normal practice of the OCC, whose stated policies and evidential practice clearly indicate a preference for a separation of 350m.
4. Until some 40 years ago, Pine Woods Road and its environs were frequently subject to severe dust blow and consequent poor visibility and hazardous deposits due to the prevailing SW winds. The seeding of the field with grass at that time greatly diminished this. Removal of the topsoil and the excavation of sand will render the soil once more liable to wind

blow, a circumstance that has been disregarded in the applicant's proposals.

5. The Corallian Ridge, on which the proposed site stands, has so far been insulated from the depredations of developers and industrialists alike. As one of the few remaining unspoilt landscapes of the county, there is an implied responsibility on the county to preserve this for future generations.
6. The county's own commissioned report on take-off of sand and gravel suggests a far greater reserve of soft sand than the published official figures. This analysis merits a stronger position than the county has so far taken in its assessment of its national responsibilities, as well as in its evaluation of this application.
7. With the imminent adoption of a new county minerals and waste plan, which favours extension of existing sites over the opening of new ones, considerable weight should be given to this new definitive policy over the old, imprecise wordings of the existing but now dated policy.
8. Should the application be granted, monitoring of any 106 conditions will be beyond the restricted resources of the county and the burden will therefore fall upon the shoulders of the residents of Longworth.

On these grounds the application should be refused forthwith.

This is the second attempt by the applicant to obtain permission for this exercise; any further attempt should be considered vexatious and a waste of time, money and scarce county resources, and rejected on sight.

Yours sincerely,

Elsa M. Boyce
Chairman