

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT TO DORDON PARISH COUNCIL

Date: - 17th January 2022

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ITEMS

1 Residents concerns -

- noise and light disturbance from delivery vehicles arriving and leaving outside permitted hours – DORDON Coop
- over last 6 months, strong smell from 6 weekly cycle of grown [Cannabis [Long Street]
- Hall End cottages – need to replace signage because HGVs turning about once a month down their road in mistake for Birch Coppice main entrance.

2 Public consultation: - Outline planning application PAP/2021/0663 – Warehouse Facility and lorry park

Since start of New Year, I have been talking to residents living along A5 and on West side of village explaining what is proposed - and encouraging them to submit their views before the consultation ends on January 31st. Several residents have helped with getting in responses.

At the time of writing this report, around 140 responses from Dordon and Birchmoor have been submitted.

Here is a summary of the key points: -

1. STRATEGIC GAP

The agricultural land currently designated in the NWBC s local plan Gap is valued by many residents, particularly those living in Vicarage Close, Kitwood Ave and Birchwood Ave.

The sense of open countryside for walking, cycling, and exercising their dogs is important. They do not want to lose any of this land for more industrial development and feared that if permission was granted to develop this part of the strategic gap, it would only be a matter of time before the rest of the land was released for industrial or residential development.

2. NEED TO CHANGE THE USE OF [PART] OF THIS LAND FOR WAREHOUSES AND LOCAL EMPLOYMENT?

Residents commented on the 'awful' ribbon development of so many large warehouses all along the south side of the A5 and said they do not wish to see anymore.

Residents who have lived a long time in the village say these developments have ruined any sense of living in a rural area and felt "Enough is enough".

Residents seriously doubt the need for more warehouses and ask how this can be true when there are many thousands of square feet lying empty and unused with roadside advertisements ++ for rental space and huge developments going up each year – eg Junction 11

Residents who work or have worked in the logistics industry as warehouse operatives said that they knew warehouses in and around this area which are unable to recruit the staff they need to operate fully.

Many such warehouses have to "import" labour by car or bus from a wide catchment area. They question the need for more employment and cite the daily number of job vacancies available [about 80 – 90 for warehouse operative jobs within 5 miles of Dordon which appear on job search engines [e.g., INDEED or TOTAL jobs]

3 TRAFFIC VOLUME DELAYS AND CONGESTION WITH 4th SET OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS

For some residents living on the A5, the amount of traffic going along the road [a traffic study commissioned by one resident suggested at least 20000 vehicles per day] has made life intolerable because of the noise, litter, and inability to safely enter and exit from their homes onto this main trunk road.

They felt the daily addition of more HGVs will worsen further their quality of life.

Most residents were concerned about further delays to journey times because of HGVs turning across the A5 to travel west + the addition of a fourth set of traffic lights on this major trunk road

AIR QUALITY

Some residents, particularly those with asthma or other respiratory conditions were concerned about the deterioration in air quality which they had experienced since living along and around the A5 . They felt the reasons why air quality had deteriorated had been entirely due to the increase in traffic especially HGVs.

They believed that this development with more HGV trips and “stop start “traffic would further aggravate the rise in pollution – both for people and for wildlife.

NEED FOR A LORRY PARK

Several residents commented that they believed more lorry parks were needed – and that their partners often had to drive miles to find somewhere to park up for the night - but added they did not want the “warehouse facility “as well. Others commented on the nuisance associated with lorry parks – litter, noise, light pollution and a few gave examples of illegal refugees jumping out and “legging it “when lorries parked up at Hams Hall. They were not convinced that such a lorry park would be well maintained, secure and felt it would be far better to build these facilities within logistic warehouse sites eg Junction 11 rather than close to residential areas and footpaths

3 Update on Covid rates of infection

- Very high rates of infection - The 7 day rolling average for confirmed cases of COVID 19 infection in North Warwickshire [7/1/22] was 2239.8/100000 .
- ONS studies suggest that around 7% of people are testing positive for COVID 19; and around 43% of people are always or often maintaining social distancing.
- Around 28 hospital beds at the George Eliot hospital are occupied by COVID +ve patients but number of admissions now falling.
- Vaccine boosters are effective in protecting most people against serious illness
- Staff shortages are the key concerns affecting NHS hospital and social care services.

