Response to Moorhouse Farm Planning application 3/16/23/005

Holford Parish Council held a public meeting where 15 residents (the applicant, 2 collegues and a representative from the Fairfield estate was also present) and 4 Parish Councillors met to discuss the planning application. These are the concern raised:

Planning policy does not support residential homes on countryside land.

Access to the site off of a narrow lane (that is not wide enough for 2-way traffic) for caravans.

Does not mention how many extra Hinkley buses would be required to transport the number of employees to site, but with that number of caravans, it would probably require a minimum of 2 buses in both directions. The application mentions buses that run along the A39. This is incorrect and a public bus route does not exist on that section of the A39, or go towards the Hinkley site.

As there are no footpaths, walkers are joined on the narrow road by cyclists, cars and large farm machinery. There is concern about the safety with additional traffic.

Kilton Corner (A39 junction with Kilton Land and Hilltop Lane). The road sign is incorrect and visibility is already very difficult for traffic turning into the lane from the direction of Holford, and turning out towards Kilve. An increase in traffic in this corner is a serious concern.

Concerns on the impact on the landscape due to the amount of soil needing to be removed and replaced with hardcore (to enable vehicles to move around the site) and then the hardcore that will need removing when the site is closed. The top-soil will also need to be replaced.

Whilst it is not in the AONB pocket, the views from the AONB areas are important and this will mar them.

Further light pollution, as lights will be needed for workers to move around the site.

Further noise pollution. At the moment, in summer, there is already quite a bit of noise which can be heard by the local residents. The current campsite has a restriction and tries to keep the site quiet after 9pm.

There is mention in the application about the benefit to the local economy. This has not materialised with the caravans already present for the pub or shop. From the point of view of the pub, new waves of employees cause issues with bad behaviour and language and when they realise they are in a village pub and their behaviour is not acceptable, they stay away. Plus, there are restaurants and shops on the Hinkley site specifically for their needs.

Concerns that there will be fewer holiday makers, which do contribute to the local economy. There is heresay evidence that this is already happening.

The plan does not include a facility to fill water containers.

The design statement is misleading as there are a number of statements that indicate that it is a benefit to the local area, but this is not true.

In conclusion, should the planning authority grant this application, Holford Parish Council would ask that consideration is given to mitigating the concerns that have been expressed and that conditions are imposed to minimise the impact on the environment by the lighting, and the ground works.

The access to the site needs careful consideration as it is onto a narrow, country lane which is designated a national speed limit stretch of road.

Further, there should be conditions that are enforced concerning the reinstatement of the land at the end of the 3 year period.