

Ref: Plans 16/0669/MOUT



Letter of Representation - 16/0669/MOUT



'Verona'  
9 Sid Vale Close  
Sidford  
Devon  
EX10 9PH

Carol Stanley - 20/09/2016

Dear Sir/Madam

ACK	CIRC	GEN	FILE

Following my attendance at the Sidmouth Town Council Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September and a packed public meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September, I am writing to express my deep concerns about the proposed Sidford Business Park development. Having now heard the details of the latest proposal from Fords, I am absolutely astounded by the scale of their plan. Interestingly nobody from Fords had the courtesy to attend either meeting to put their side.

We cannot stop Sir John Cave from selling his land; he has every right to do so. But to sell it into the hands of a developer that will build a business park on it is so wrong. **EDDC should be acting as custodians of this beautiful area**. Once this land has gone it has gone and a precedent will have been set. Of all the local people that I have discussed this proposal with, I have not found one who supports it. This is not a 'not in my back yard' response, or the residents 'being stuck in the past', this is a reasoned and yes passionate plea for common sense to prevail.

My main objections to this proposal are as detailed below:

1. This is an **area of outstanding natural beauty**, which needs protecting not exploiting. Its beauty is one of the main attractions for tourists to this area and those of us that are fortunate enough to live here. Sidford has **village status** and the road between the villages is in effect a **B road**; having only had some work carried out to the bridge in Sidbury before being reclassified as an A road. If this proposed site goes ahead the village will no longer be a village.
2. I understand that the main reason put forward for the area needing this site is to provide **employment** for local people, yet all of the latest figures show that employment is not an issue in this area and is unlikely to be in the near future. I myself am recently in the unfortunate position of seeking work again but I would never want the AONB to be destroyed on order to provide me with a job. There are plenty of jobs in this area being advertised on the government job site and local job sites. If employment were an issue then it would be far better that this land was developed for agricultural or horticultural employment, as befits the area.
3. The **increase in traffic** that this development would create would be excessive for the type of roads and properties on School Street, Church Road and the village of Sidbury. The number of proposed employees alone for this site would mean a big increase in traffic as they travel to and from work. With an increase in delivery lorries we will experience even more **blockages** on these roads, an increased risk of **accidents**, even more **damage** to

roads/pavements and more **noise and pollution**. I am especially concerned about the **risk to the school children** who have to stand in the road at Sidford Cross when waiting for their bus home and those in Sidbury who walk along the road because there are no pavements. The situation is very problematic already when the road is closed and traffic is rerouted via Fry's Lane, this increase in traffic will only make such rerouting impractical.

4. The **size of the buildings** in Ford's latest proposals for light industrial and storage/distribution are beyond belief. They will not blend in with the landscape but will be an 'eye sore' seen for miles as people approach the area. What a welcome to visitors!
  
5. The **solar panels and lighting** will not only affect those of us living within the vicinity but even more importantly will affect the '**night sky**' view. This is something that has already been raised by the late Patrick Moore and more recently by the Norman Lockyer Observatory. Both highly respected in their fields of expertise. Plus it will affect the **bats** that live and feed in this area, as well as other wildlife.
  
6. We live in an area that is at increasing **risk of flooding**, this development will only add to this risk.

Please listen to the people whose views you represent, it is our town too and we wish to protect it for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

Carol

(Carol Stanley)

