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Application Number:	37/25/00011
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Opinion:	Object

Comment

I wish to submit a formal objection to the planning application for the proposed development of new motorway service facilities at Junction 24, Huntworth.

While I acknowledge the importance of ensuring adequate services for motorway users, I have significant concerns regarding both the necessity and the broader impact of this proposal. Notably, there is already an established service area at this junction, with additional facilities located only minutes away in either direction. The introduction of another service area at this location would be both excessive and redundant, offering little additional value while undermining existing businesses by diverting traffic and trade. It does not address any demonstrable service shortfall and instead risks contributing to the over saturation of such amenities in the area.

Moreover, the scale and design of the proposed facility are entirely incongruous with the rural character of the surrounding landscape. The development would result in the loss of valuable greenfield land, currently home to a diverse range of wildlife. Its destruction would represent a significant and irreversible ecological loss.

Environmental concerns extend further. The increase in vehicle emissions, coupled with constant artificial lighting, would detrimentally affect local biodiversity and air quality. Additionally, the 24-hour operation of the site would bring continuous traffic, light, and noise pollution seriously impacting the health, comfort, and quality of life of local residents, particularly during night time hours when tranquility is most needed.

Of equal concern is the inevitable rise in traffic on local minor roads, which are not designed to support large volumes of commercial vehicles, including HGVs and delivery lorries. These roads are used daily by residents, families, cyclists, and pedestrians and are wholly unsuitable for the increased load. The resulting congestion and degradation of road surfaces pose significant safety risks.

Particularly troubling is the impact on sensitive community infrastructure located close to the affected routes. The local Children's Day Care Centre, Community Hub, and Tennis Club all frequented by young children, families, would be placed at increased risk due to higher traffic volumes and the presence of heavy vehicles. Many visitors to these facilities travel on foot or by bicycle, and the increase in traffic presents an unacceptable hazard to their safety.

In conclusion, this development is unnecessary and out of step with the needs and character of the local area. It would cause lasting harm to the environment, local infrastructure, and community well-being. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the council to reject the application in the interests of sustainable and responsible planning.