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Application Number:	37/25/00011
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Opinion:	Object

Comment

I object to the above planning application for the following reasons;

I currently manage the existing services hotel on the opposite side of the motorway at the MOTO service area and have done so for over 3 years.

The service area there is only 25 years old and the design and layout is very poor.

Not having its own designated slip road on and off the motorway, and relying on one roadway into the services and the same road also services the exit of the services.

Any local resident will tell you that this section of the M5 is notorious for accidents between junction 26 and 22 in both directions.

When there is an incident on the M5 in this area and the motorway becomes blocked or congested, this causes traffic to be unable to get in or out of the existing services, the local roads in and out of Bridgwater namely the A38 and Huntworth and surrounding areas become impassable.

If there was ever an emergency at the services requiring the emergency services they literally would not be able to get into the services and lives are being put at risk.

So I ask the question, why on earth would you permit another services on the proposed site, that will also have no independent slip road off the motorway and directly onto the motorway be granted planning?

The proposed services design has no direct access on and off the motorway, but is again relying on the existing junction 24 exit, to be directed down on to another proposed roundabout, where you will have exactly the same situation as the existing MOTO services, relying on one road in and the same road out to gain access to this services. Back onto the new roundabout before being able to get to the existing motorway roundabout.

Currently coming up Huntworth Lane to the existing roundabout during rush hour, you take your life in your hands to get across in a car, let alone the many

pedestrians that use this route on a daily basis.

The proposed services will be at least twice as big in capacity for cars, lorries, caravans and motorhomes.

This will only compound the already overwhelmed road networks, adding further noise and air pollution to Huntworth and the area.

The plans seem to completely cut off the village as the existing Huntworth Lane seems to have been cut off or diverted.

Further to this the plans also include a further 15 industrial units to the south and North of the proposed services, also having to use the same single road in and out of the site.

These alone would see 100's of cars and HGV's coming in and out of the single road network on top of the 100's of cars and lorries proposed to be using the new services on the same site.

There are services nearby at Sedgemoor going North and Taunton Deane going South all within a 10 minute drive, in addition is the dual services at Dunball at Junction 23.

There is no reason and there is not the capacity for the roads and the environment to cope with a new services on this site.

As a resident of Huntworth also my property borders the proposed site, which is part of a former farm that used to farm the very site that is proposed to be built on.

1 of the properties is Grade 2 listed

We were denied an extension on our property, which would have been very modest in the scheme of the proposed Services and industrial area.

We were refused planning because;

By virtue of the scale, detail and form of the proposed extension, it would detract from the character of the building and the surrounding area. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policy BE2 and STR3 of the emerging Sedgemoor District Local Plan and STR6 of the Somerset and Exmoor National Park Joint Structure Plan Review.

“It would detract from the character of the property and the surrounding area”

This seems rather odd that our humble cottage gets denied a small extension, but this industrial planning application gets outline planning approval yet all the above reasons why it should not seems to have evaporated.

This seems to be more about Somerset Council only thinking of their bank balance and not the local community of Huntworth.

The site you are proposing to be built on is home to a lot of wildlife that we see from our home, including Buzzards, Canada Geese that use the field during the spring summer and autumn for mass gatherings to feed and prepare to migrate.

There are Badgers, Deers, Foxes and many small mammals that live in the hedgerows. Their habitats will be lost and destroyed.

There will be increased noise light and air pollution from the new site which could have adverse effects on the health of the residents of Huntworth.

The light pollution will affect certain animals and insects and other wildlife including the local Bat population which are present in the area

In recent years Huntworth has been plagued with an increase in Traffic at peak rush hour times, this has gradually increased since the new bridge was put in to connect squibbers way and Marsh lane.

It is used by daily commuters, as a rat run and up 60mph as there is no speed restriction, It is also used by HGV's including council operated Recycling lorries and waste collection Bin lorries, these are using the road to get to the depot on Squibbers Way / Colley Lane, and it is on days when there is no collections due in the village and should not be using the road, even articulated lorries and coaches have been spotted used it as a cut through.

As a small village / hamlet there are not footpaths, and many people who live in Huntworth have to walk as they don't use cars or are out walking or with their dogs, or are elderly people and put their lives at risk on a daily basis

The road is now in such poor repair due to cars wearing the surface away and pushing the road wider where they are trying to pass, causing huge craters at the sides of the road.

All this traffic is also going to be using this same new roundabout that is proposed at the services entrance, and I can see on a daily basis that Huntworth will become

so congested that the residents will not be able to gain access to their homes as the traffic will be delayed at this new junction causing tailbacks.

The other issue that is noted is the plans refer to a "Foul Water Storage" and a "Foul Water Pumping Station"

They are proposed right next to the Wagon House and the Granary properties in Huntworth Lane / Marsh Lane in Huntworth.

This will cause further noise, air and water pollution to the local water causeways.

The site clearly has no "mains" infrastructure for drainage and relies on the water to run into the local ditches and causeways.

Huntworth lane floods on a regular basis when we have heavy prolonged rainfall.

Covering this 100 acre site with tarmac and concrete, will not allow any natural soakaway into the ground as the field currently absorbs.

This will run off into local properties that could cause flash flooding, and will overwhelm the local ditches and waterways and cause more severe flooding for the village, putting many properties at risk and making the roads impassable, adding more congestion to Huntworth lane and the local roads off it.

Overall the whole scheme and the proposed plans are poorly thought out, clearly on a shoestring budget, where the highest profit can be achieved at the expense of the local community and the environment.

This is a disaster in the making if this is allowed to proceed.

Yours faithfully

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