

Proposal:

DC/25/0111/FUL | Planning application - a. change of use of existing building to general industrial (use class B2) b. retention of replacement cladding to walls and roof and roller shutter doors and external dust extraction plant | Station Yard Station Road Barnham Suffolk IP24 2PD

Response: Submitted by P Smith, Clerk to Barnham Parish Council.

Date: 06/03/24

Barnham Parish Council **OBJECTS** to this proposal for the following reasons:

1. Residential Amenity, Noise Pollution and Impact on Public Health

There has been, and continues to be, an ongoing noise issue from the manufacturing facility operating within this building, for which planning consent is now being sought. This has been causing distress to nearby residents since the operation commenced (without planning consent) over 2 years ago.

This noise is understood to emanate from the dust extraction system, which is in operation from the early hours of the morning to mid-afternoon.

The times provided within the report from the Acoustic Consultants state:

06.00 – 14.30, Monday – Friday.

The noise/sound is described as a **constant high-pitched drone**.

Noise is a significant environmental stressor that has been proven to detrimentally affect both mental and physical well-being.

For residents who wish to enjoy their outdoor spaces for gardening and other activities, the ongoing noise issue causes distress, curtails their ability to enjoy their gardens, and diminishes their quality of life; the 6.00am start of the operation impacts upon residents' sleep, and the need to keep windows closed to mitigate the impact of the noise whilst indoors is unacceptable.

Barnham Parish Council references the findings from the detailed report by Sharps Redmore, Acoustic Consultants (available within the documents listed on the West Suffolk Council website for this application) which provides detailed information of the outcome of a site visit and noise survey carried out over the period 27th and 28th August 2024:

- The noise levels indicate "there is potentially an adverse impact subject to context."
- The assessment demonstrates the necessity for mitigation measures to reduce potential noise impact on local residents.

2. Hours of Operation

The application includes the hours of
Monday to Friday: 06:00 – 16:30
and Saturday: 06:00 – 14:30

Comment: The start time of 06:00 (weekdays) is out of line with other units on the site.

Saturday: Opening hours/hours of operation -. The Parish Council **objects** to the inclusion of manufacturing being carried out on this site during weekends or bank holidays. (In the interests of Residential Amenity)

3. Highways Issues

The site is located along the C633, directly opposite and close to residential properties. The proposed times of opening/operation would result in an increase in industrial traffic associated with this facility, which exacerbates existing, well documented, highway safety concerns, including:

- The impact of Increased vehicle movements along C633, to and from the site
- Increased hazards for pedestrians and local residents

Question: In the interests of Highway Safety: Is a traffic management plan required/been requested in relation to this application?

4. Conditions

Barnham Parish Council objects to this planning application for the reasons previously detailed. However, if West Suffolk Council, as the Planning Authority, is minded to grant consent, it is requested that conditions to cover the following be included:

- **Noise Mitigation:** The applicant must implement enhanced noise mitigation measures to ensure that **no** industrial noise is audible at residential properties.
- **No Manufacturing Operations** to be carried out until all necessary noise mitigation measures have been implemented.
- **Regular Noise Assessments** must be conducted by an independent acoustic specialist, with immediate remedial action required if noise levels exceed agreed thresholds.
- **Restricted Operating Hours:** Opening/Operational hours should be restricted with no weekend or bank holiday operations.
- **Enforcement Mechanisms:** Clear penalties and conditions for any breaches of the agreed restrictions, including potential revocation of permission if non-compliance persists.

END