

LILFORD CUM WIGSTHORPE THORPE ACHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4th July 2022 at The Dairy, Rectory Farm barns, Achurch at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors G Hopkinson (Vice Chair), T Wright, S Moffat,

In attendance:

223.219	To receive and approve apologies for absence Cllrs Clarke, Healey and Bird
223.220	Public participation session None
223.221	To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. None
223.222	To consider and resolve the council's response to planning applications listed below plus any other planning applications advised by East Northamptonshire Council and available on its website between the circulation of this agenda and the meeting. NE/22/00698/OUT Resolved: See attached comments
223.223	To confirm the date of the next meeting as 13th July 2021 Resolved: Date confirmed.
223.224	To close the meeting The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Lilford cum Wigsthorpe Thorpe Achurch Parish Council wishes to object to planning application NE/22/00698/OUT on the following grounds:

The proposed development will be a blot on the local landscape and will be seen for many miles around inflicting further visual damage to the Nene Valley and surrounding countryside. Additional light pollution will also have a detrimental effect on wildlife including Thrapston Lakes and Titchmarsh Nature Reserve, and potentially on residents' mental wellbeing.

Highways safety: The Council believes that with the A605 already being near to, if not already at, its full capacity the additional vehicle movements will cause further congestion to this road, as well as noise disturbance to residents living alongside the road, and emissions pollution. It is well known that in wintery weather that HGVs struggle on the hill upto the Titchmarsh junction, and in addition the extra vehicle movements will endanger motorists attempting to turn right out of Thorpe, Achurch and Lilford as well as traffic travelling from the Oundle direction wishing to turn into these villages, the same can be said for Wigsthorpe residents wishing to travel towards Oundle or returning from the Thrapston area. Councillors would also like to point out that already severe problems arise when the A605 is closed or severely congested with vehicles of all sizes attempting to use the narrow country lanes to avoid the blockage, the ancient bridge on the Thorpe/Aldwinckle land has suffered considerable damage over the years from being struck by HGVs despite a weight limit being in place.

In addition to transportation the parish council is also concerned over the potential issue of flooding and would like to see the full plan of rainwater run off to ensure historical flooding has been taken into proper consideration. Also question the use of balancing lakes that on paper look like a positive image but in practice create dangerous hazards for young children. The Parish Council also has concerns about the increased risk of run off causing surface flooding for motorists and local residents.

With many companies already advertising for additional staff, and an awareness that some companies are already having to bring workers in from areas many miles away, which in itself will add to traffic movements, the Parish Council feels this is the wrong location for a warehouse of this size

In these days of heightened awareness of the importance of food security and the possible need for home production of agricultural products it is wrong to cover yet more farm land with concrete when there are many brown field sites around the county waiting to be re-developed.

LWTA PC believes this application is in direct contrast to many of the Policies set out in the North Northants Joint Core Strategy including:

Policy 1 – presumption in favour of sustainable development

Policy 3 – landscape character – development should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting and, where possible, enhance the distinctive qualities of the landscape character which it would affect.

Policy 10 – provision of infrastructure – b) to encourage a reduction in car use

Policy 20 – The Nene and Ise valleys will be priorities for investment in green infrastructure to strengthen biodiversity and landscape character. Develop the tourism potential of Thrapston as a gateway to the river – as in come and view our warehouses maybe!!

Policy

23 – Distribution of jobs, East Northamptonshire target of 7200 a figure we understand that has already been reached.

Policy 24 – logistics c) have good access to local labour supply and be accessible to the local workforce through public transport, walking and cycling – with workers for this development having to be brought in from further afield it is highly unlikely that this requirement will be met.

Lilford cum Wigsthorpe Thorpe Achurch Parish Council urges North Northamptonshire Council to reject this proposal.