**Barnham Parish Council**

**Planning Committee Meeting**

**Monday, 15th February 2021. 7pm via zoom.**

**MINUTES**

**Present**: Parish Cllrs: John Bauer, Matthew Hawthorne, Peter Keast, Mrs. Susan Watson, Ed Wyer (Chair).

Members of the Public: Ken Jordan, Andy Watson

Members of Thetford Town Council: Michael Brindle, Chris Harvey and Terry Jermy

Member of the Press: Kevin Hurst (Bury Free Press)

Clerk: Mrs. Caroline Dowson (Reporting)

**Apologies** received and approval for absence granted for Cllr. Charles Merrifield

**Declarations of interest** and requests for dispensations – none.

1. West Suffolk District Council Planning application DC/21/0017/FUL

Proposal: Installation of two ambient vaporiser units, silencer skid, concrete plinth and ancillary infrastructure

Location: Cryoserve, Air Products Plc, Station Road, Barnham

Applicant: Air Products Plc

**It was unanimously agreed** to object to this planning application. The parish council would like assurance that noise levels will not increase and that there will be no visual impact in the vicinity.

1. Suffolk County Council Planning reference SCC/0095/20SE

Proposal: Extraction of sand and gravel and subsequent importation of inert waste material to achieve a beneficial restoration of the site back to heathland on land at North Farm, Barnham.

Location: North Farm, Elveden Road, Barnham, Thetford. IP24 2PH

Cllr. Wyer thanked members of the public, Thetford Town Council and a member from the press for attending the meeting. He explained the background to the application and how this site has been included within the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Barnham Parish Council objected to this).

Cllr. Wyer noted that the Planning Inspector (when considering the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan) had set a Condition on the Barnham site that a traffic management plan was to be drafted to avoid traffic routing through local villages including Barnham. This condition was specified knowing that there was already an HGV weight limit through the centre of the village. So his condition was intended to prohibit quarry traffic routing through the parts of the village that line the C633 and A134 not, as asserted by the case officer, Mr Gunby, just the centre of the village.

The revised hgv route within the planning application is now cause for concern.

Cllr. Bauer highlighted the large number of hgv’s already using the C633. There has recently been an increase in hgvs using the Indigo Waste Site and the new Gerda Warehouse.

Cllr. Harvey (Thetford Town Council) commented that there is too much heavy hgv traffic and consequent road damage through Thetford.

Mr. Jordan (member of the public) suggested that a primary argument against this application should be regarding road usage. An up to date survey would now show a significant increase in hgv’s using the C633 (bearing in mind recent developments with the new warehouse (Gerda), Indigo, NRG). Cllr. Bauer highlighted that the warehouse is not supposed to be used until after the road has been widened, but it is already in use without the necessary road widening.

Also, the recycling plant (Indigo) has now been sold to a company in Kent and so expansion and more traffic is expected.

Cllr. Wyer noted that we still don’t have clear guidance on the interpretation of the TRO, which was supposed to be provided by Highways.

Cllr. Jermy noted that Thetford Town Council has voted unanimously to object. Lorries need to access the major roads quickly and not use residential areas. In the proposal hgv’s would be entering the quarry site empty, but would enter Thetford via the A134 fully loaded. He stated that the A134 needs a weight restriction. It is hoped that Norfolk County Council will object to this application.

Cllr. Wyer summarised that it is a priority to stop the hgv’s using the A134 and that hgv’s using the C633 is dangerous.

Cllr. Brindle (Thetford Town Council) asked if Suffolk Highways would be likely to object to the planning application. Sadly, Cllr. Wyer commented that it is unlikely to expect any support from them.

Cllr. Brindle asked who would hear this planning application. Cllr. Wyer believes it will go to the Full Planning Committee. Thetford Town Council would be pleased to send a representative.

Cllr. Bauer suggested that more residents need to engage with this. The clerk will prepare something for the village Newsletter. Cllr. Jermy also said he could help by using the About Thetford magazine that is delivered to Barnham households.

**Conclusion**

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council will object to this planning application.

Cllr. Wyer will prepare a response, which is likely to be quite lengthy to include the original objections used for this site for the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan. This will include original concerns regarding flooding, environment (stone curlews) and that the C633 in its present condition is not fit for heavy hgv traffic. In addition, it was unanimously agreed that the new hgv routing plan is unacceptable. A new traffic survey should be requested, but not as per the previous survey that just monitored the proposed site entrance. A new survey with realistic data is needed to incorporate the likely congested areas, bearing in mind the increased hgv traffic that has taken place in just the last two years.