

## Planning Committee

**Wednesday 7 October 2020**

### Late Observations Schedule

#### Schedule Items

<u>Item</u>	<u>App No</u>	<u>Observations</u>
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2	20/0137	<u>County Councillor Clemson Comments</u>
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The following comments were received from Cty Cllr Clemson in response to the initial notification of the application and so are not late observations. It would be usual for comments from an elected member to be included in the officer report, and that was not the case with these comments. An apology for this omission has been provided to Cty Cllr Clemson and the comments are included in full here for Members' information.

*"I am writing to you in my capacity as the County Councillor for Poulton-le-Fylde in connection with the application above.*

*I have been close to this situation from the outset in 2009 because I work for the local MP, The Rt Hon Ben Wallace. I have also been involved since 2013 as the County Councillor for Poulton-le-Fylde. For the last eleven years issues from this site have been crossing my desk on an almost a daily basis. I have attended planning meetings, public enquiries, appeals, the High Court etc, in connection with this site. As you know, although the actual site is in the Borough of Fylde, most of the fallout from it affects the nearby residents of Wyre. These residents have had to endure everything from ASB and intimidation to additional danger on local roads and noise pollution.*

*Being the County Councillor for the area I am extremely concerned about the impact on road safety any further developments will have on local roads. Although LCC Highways do not always agree with me, we find ourselves in an almost unworkable and very dangerous situation here in Poulton due to over development. Recently, I have been highlighting the dangerous situation with regards to traffic which passes the entrance to the site in question. There is a 60 MPH limit on the B5266, and because of its long, straight nature the road encourages speeding drivers. When this already dangerous situation is added to often large vehicles turning in and out of the site, the risk of accidents is greatly increased. It would be irresponsible to increase the amount of traffic using this junction. Please remember, there have been serious accidents on that stretch of road and one just as the road comes in to Hardhorn Village. Also, there is no footpath to the site on the B5266 so pedestrians going to and from the site are at great risk from the often fast moving vehicles.*

*From the start, up until 2016, all applications applicable to this site were refused and planning committees, inspectors and judges were all consistent in their reasoning and decision making. Then in 2016 one inspector had a different view and granted permission. This decision was against everything that had happened previously and was absolutely devastating to the local residents. The really worrying point is that in affect, this inspector was saying, all the decisions made up to that point were wrong and he was right but, the evidence does not back that up. The one glimmer of hope that was taken from that ill thought through and incorrect decision was the many conditions that were put on the application. Although extremely disappointed, residents left slightly optimistic that actually the site may eventually be cleared as a result of conditions not being adhered to. Unfortunately this was not the case because, despite breaking the*

*conditions constantly and although enforcement notices have been issued, no court action has been taken. To now grant permission for any additional Pitches or buildings would be wrong because put simply, the occupants of the site have not adhered to current conditions so cannot be expected to adhere to any future conditions.*

*As a local elected representative, I believe that Fylde Council should refuse any further applications on this site, at least until all current conditions are adhered to. If this application was passed, the likelihood is that the occupants of this site would continue to ignore conditions and the situation would get even worse. I ask Fylde Council to reject this application for the reasons I have stated."*

#### Officer Response to Cty Cllr Clemson's comments

The comments received relate to the following key issues which are all addressed in the report, but can be briefly responded to as follows:

- Breaches of condition – Whilst there are on-going breaches of some conditions these are being addressed and the failure to satisfy conditions on one part of the site by others cannot influence the council's decision on this application particularly as the applicant is not responsible for the breaches
- Highway safety – Whilst the adequacy of the junction to Fairfield Road has been an issue previously the Inspector accepted it was adequate, and there are no objections to the limited additional use that this application involves from LCC as local highway authority