

Ref 18/1094/FUL Proposed Business Park at Two Bridges

Dear Sir/Madam,

11th October 2021

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the above application which would scar a picturesque AONB scene in Sidford forever.

Permitting this application for such a gross intrusion into the idyllic Sid Valley will represent a major failure of the planning system which is out of sync with public opinion and measures to reduce the impact of climate change. Concreting over this large area of farmland will damage the natural eco-system leading to the depletion of natural resources and bio-diversity loss. Instead of servicing local demand it will generate considerable amounts of commuter and customer traffic from all over the district and beyond increasing the carbon footprint and impacting unfairly on the village folk of Sidford and Sidbury. In view of the forthcoming COP 26 summit ambitions to drastically reduce carbon emissions a sustainability audit of such over-development would almost certainly require the above application to be consigned to the trash-bin.

Ill-conceived and designed the proposed "Business Park" sits unsympathetically in the rural setting. Lacking character, the general configuration and layout is incompatible with the topographical context of the valley setting. Poorly arranged it degrades the open field landscape and will also lead to a deterioration in the quality of life of the neighbouring residents. Oversized and spatially wasteful, the plan is dedicated to the "car-culture" which will result in traffic congestion, air, and noise pollution at the Sidford crossroads and surrounding Sidbury parish area. The ratio of onsite vehicle circulation and profusion of visitors parking is excessive compared with the amount of workshop accommodation in a hostile arrangement which resembles a retail park. The two-storey landmark buildings nearest to the road are positioned in the most conspicuous location and will appear out of proportion compared with the massing and heights of the other buildings down the slope.

Finally, where is the evidence for so much employment land of this scale in Sidmouth? Surely, as per the Neighbourhood Plan, it is better to retrofit and overall, the poorly maintained Alexandria Industrial Estate rather than further brutalising our cherished landscape.

In defiance of local objections, such a large-scale industrial estate development is an inconsiderate affront to social justice and democracy. Graham Cooper