

Dr Paul Sopp
9 Broadmark Avenue
Rustington
West Sussex
BN16 2HQ

Your Ref: OWPC576

Our Ref: A/74/13/

29-05-2013

Please ask for:
Mr C Cronin

5th July 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 (as amended)

Proposed distribution warehouse and covered storage, trade counter and associated offices. Upgrading of access road for and improvement of existing junction with the A27.

This application is a Departure from the Development Plan and affects a public Right of Way.

The Vinery Poling

Thank you for your internet representation made on 4th July 2013 which has been recorded as **'support'** with the comments as follows:

A/74/13 - letter of support

I write as a local resident and as Technical Director of Fargo to support our planning submission A/74/13 for the Vinery, Poling. I have been employed by Fargo for 23 years in a variety of technical roles advising growers and developing new products for the horticultural industry. I was brought up in Littlehampton and after university joined the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute before moving to Fargo.

Fargo is a local business, owned by the industry, and since being established in Worthing in the 1940's has had to move twice to allow development of existing sites to occur. The first move was 40 years ago from Worthing to Toddington and now again we find ourselves needing to move to facilitate the North Littlehampton (Hampton Park) development, recently approved unanimously by the council. Fargo is a successful local business employing 57 staff, almost 50 of them locally from the Arun district. An exhaustive search for a relocation site since 2006 has identified the Vinery as the only viable site which allows us to retain our existing staff and keep the employment within Arun, supporting fifty local families.

The Vinery is an ideal site being on the main trunk road through the district and enables us to remove our vehicle movements from the Toddington and Lyminster roads reducing commercial vehicle movements on local roads. The proposed upgrading of the Vinery junction with the A27 will improve the junction for residents and tenants, and the improved on-site traffic management which removes commercial traffic from the local residents access road is to be welcomed.

The proposals for significant planting of native trees and shrubs is part of the ethos of Fargo as a horticultural business run by horticulturalists. We care greatly about our environment, for staff and wildlife and will be enhancing the site with planting and other measures to encourage wildlife, far beyond what is currently available on the site. The planting will also provide an effective screen to the site improving the views from the south and west which are currently of a non-native conifer hedge and conspicuous blue buildings, all will be screened by the planting. The building itself will in any case be lower than the conifer hedge so not visible from the north and lying below the sky line when viewed from the south.

Much has been written about the importance of the Fargo business to the local horticultural industry, which supports 1,300 full time jobs and thousands of part-time employees (WSGA report part funded by ADC, 2010). Fargo is the largest supplier of goods to those businesses enabling them to produce edible and ornamental crops for the

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UK market, truly an integral part of the food production industry. The relationship with the industry goes wider as the business is largely owned by growers. Fargo supplies significant technical support to the industry and is actively involved in industry organisations at local, regional and national levels. We also use local businesses for providing services such as hotels for our visitors and printers for literature. I could write much more about the care that has been taken with this proposal to ensure it not only meets our needs but improves the Vinery site for residents and wildlife, but this is clear from the many reports commissioned as part of the application. I trust that Arun District Council will recognise the requirement for Fargo to relocate to facilitate the Hampton Park development approved by the council, and work that has been done to ensure this is done in such a way as to preserve employment and improve the environment. We look to ADC to support a successful local business providing significant employment and to approve this application.

Your views will be considered before the application is determined and I shall write to inform you of any decision made.

Please be aware that if the application is to be determined by the Council's Development Control committee and your letter has been received at a late stage after the Agenda has been published you will not receive a separate letter notifying you of the date of the meeting and procedures for public speaking. In such circumstances it is recommended that you track the progress of the application on the Council's website or telephone the Council for further information. Please be advised that any comments you make that are not included within the Committee Agenda will be reported to the Members of the Development Control committee. Please also be aware that only a small number of all planning applications received go the Development Control Committee. Most are determined under delegated powers by Officers in which case your comments will again be considered before the application is determined.

Please be aware that Planning Services operate an 'open file' policy and will publish details of your comments on the internet on the Arun District Council Planning section. Please ensure that you only provide information that you are happy will be made available in this way. If you supply information belonging to a third party, please ensure you have their permission to do so. If you do not wish your comments to appear on the 'open file' please confirm this in writing and I will arrange for it to be destroyed although this means that its contents will then be disregarded.

In the event of a subsequent written representations appeal, against a refusal of planning permission on a householder application, any representations made on the application will be automatically forwarded to the Secretary of State. Unlike all other types of appeal, there will be no further opportunity to comment at the appeal stage.

Yours faithfully

Karl Roberts
Assistant Director Planning & Economic Regeneration