

AUSTIN-DIVALL FABRICATIONS LTD

UNIT J
RUDFORD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
FORD, ARUNDEL
WEST SUSSEX
BN18 0BF

06 April 2018

To whom it may concern,

Graham Divall and I formed Austin Divall Fabrications LTD in 1991, initially to fabricate Mild Steel pontoon walkway frames for the marine industry.

We commenced fabrication in unit J1 which had previously been the workshop of Beaumont fabrications Ltd who had been fabricating structural steelwork in the unit since 1986.

Unit J1 was at the time approx. 330m² with an external storage area of 300m².

We increased production quite rapidly and the factory was quickly too small to facilitate the number and size of frames we were being requested to manufacture, so we commenced shift working in 1993 with the frames being fabricated during the day and welded out on the same benches during the night. At this stage we had increased the workforce quite considerably, we now employ 35 people of various disciplines, all highly skilled.

ADFL continued to be successful, increasing output year on year and eventually we needed additional floor space to cope with the ever increasing demands.

In 2006 we were honoured to be offered a partnering arrangement with Vestas Wind Turbines, a Danish company with a UK base on the I.O.W to produce the mild steel transportation frames for moving offshore wind turbine blades from Denmark and the UK to Western Europe and America.

Again we had to increase our workforce and fabrication area so began to look for larger premises with a substantial storage yard, and all in the local area ensuring we could continue employing our skilled staff.

We spent nearly two years looking for the right site without success, this included discussions with a local developer to build a purpose-built factory on land at Ford which was ultimately developed into the waste transfer site for Viridor.

We eventually realised our only viable option was to extend our existing factory. To make this work we purchased units Z and unit Z3 and applied for planning permission to extend unit J1 into our storage yard; demolish Z3 to form our new storage yard and to turn unit Z into our new paint shop.

Throughout we have continued to work 24 hours a day 7 days a week on the understanding that Rudford Industrial Estate. had unrestricted hours of work. We admit to misunderstanding the planning conditions for the extension which we interpreted to mean that the time restrictions applied to construction machinery and vehicles during the construction phase, had we known that these restrictions were applicable to our working hours we would have appealed or not gone ahead with the development.

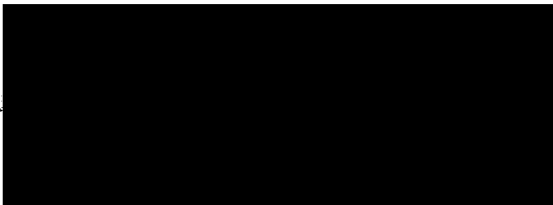
We know that since the houses were built on Horsemere Green Lane noise at night has occasionally been an issue, we believe there have been in the region of 15 complaints over the past 10 years. One local resident Mr Jon Barnes has been in dialogue directly with us via email and face to face, we have investigated and responded to his comments, the dialogue has been extremely cordial and friendly he has thanked us in writing for our efforts on more than one occasion.

We have spent both time and money to minimise noise generation as we have no wish to be bad neighbours.

Our current proposal is to apply for planning permission to cover the storage yard by extending the southern wall, the length of the yard with an end wall to western end and a roof. The southern wall will be an acoustic wall to prevent noise penetration.

The cost will be in excess of £200,000.00 but we are willing to undertake this to future proof the operation of the company.

Yours sincerely



Alan Austin