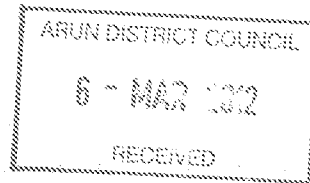


PH9/11



Park House

Lagness

Chichester

PO20 1LF

1 Mar 2012

The Planning Dept

Arun Civic Centre

Maltravers Road

Littlehampton

BN17 5 LF

Dear Sirs

Ref planning renewal for glasshouses P/79/11 .

I would like to record objections to the construction of these glasshouses, and ask the relevant planning officers and members to take the following into account.

The reason that these glasshouses have not been erected is that there are no local operational needs for them, and they provide no benefit or diversification to the local economy. (GEN3)

It is well known that since the original application the applicants have divested their interest in plant growing, and the site has been offered for sale to other local growers. As planners will be aware there are many other plant growers in the area which have seen a contraction in their business, and this fact is referred to by the applicant as the reason for delay. I suggest to the planning committee that the sole reason for this extension is to continue to provide the opportunity for commercial gain in land value to the applicant, and that the plans as submitted have little bearing on what may eventually be constructed .

I draw attention to the applicants ridiculous claim that the proposed plant growing will require little artificial light and no external lighting will be required. All who live in this area knows this to be untrue, and that all other glasshouses in the area radiate light at various times of day and night depending on the season, and have high external lighting to facilitate the 24 hour articulated transport which is universally used for inputs and outputs to their glass houses.

I also point out that the environmental impact studies in the original application are severely deficient concerning the risks to the local environment and the underlying water table.

I mentioned in my objection to the original application how poor the studies had been into water usage, discharges, and pollution risks, and raised the point that water flow studies in the local area were wrongly presented by so called "experts"

These glasshouses are planned where the water table is very high, and varies from zero to 5 metres below the surface. Very little surface water flows in a conventional manner from ditches into the rifes, but instead flows in and out of the local aquifers which are sourced from the underlying chalk .

The applicant has proposed large reservoirs to support the glasshouses, which of course he will fill from the boreholes on site and rainwater from the roofs. He will fertilise his plants, and use both pesticides and fungicides to prevent disease. He will be unable to prevent a build up of contaminants on this site and in the reservoirs. Should a breach of these reservoirs occur then the water discharges will simply flow down into the underlying chalk and contaminate the region's water supply.

I know that the environment agency has concerns about this since they have set up a network of monitoring boreholes along the south coast, one of which is on my land.

The applicant has recently farmed this land for intensive lettuce production at an unsustainable level which has completely destroyed the surface environment. He has now had to sell the lettuce business ,and revert back to wheat so the land can recover . The other consequence has been the high levels of fertilisers used, which are leaching and polluting deep down into the chalk beneath . The nitrate levels being measured by my borehole 200ft under the surface have reached a contaminant level which now breaches national standards. This borehole is within 150 metres of the proposed site, and the water from it is estimated to be up to 1000 years old, yet polluted in less than a decade.

If required I can provide as evidence the environment agency water analysis report.

The pollution of the local underground sources by excess nitrates is one thing, but pollution by pesticides and fungicides would present a far larger major and irreversible hazard, which has been underrepresented both in the original application, and current re application. There is no indication in the proposal of what "plants" will be grown. At the very least his application should be deferred until better and more comprehensive studies can better evaluate the obvious inherent risks of the design and use to which these large artificial structures will be put.

Make no mistake that if this application is granted the land will become a brown field site, and no sustainable agriculture will be achieved. Please stand aside from the detail and look at what a decade of lettuce production has achieved, and what other glasshouse growers are doing.

Polluted land, immigrant workers, many on benefits, social services overworked. As our representatives do you really want more of the same ?

This land should be retained for the present and future generations.



Derek F. Bond C Eng MInst P FIEI.