

**Tatworth and Forton Parish Council has resolved to strongly oppose the planning application WD/D/19/000451 – Westford Park Farm, and recommends refusal for the following reasons:**

- 1. As it is a major new development in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), paragraph 172 of the National Planning Policy Framework applies. This states that such a development must meet an ‘exceptional circumstances’ test. Since the need for the stone is not primarily for construction but for decorative purposes, the Council considers there is not a sufficient reason for severely damaging an AONB.**
- 2. The Council notes that Natural England and Dorset’s AONB team both oppose the application.**
- 3. The proposed site is some distance from the existing sites and It is in an area which has little impact on the view from Dorset. However the site is wide open to the north and is visible, and hence audible, to a large area of Tatworth and Forton. The Council believes that the visual impact of the development will result in harm to the visual amenity and landscape character of the AONB, as seen from Tatworth and Forton.**
- 4. The Council is aware that the noise from the nearby railway can sometimes be heard in the Tatworth and Forton area, but the noise from the proposed development will be substantially more, and constant, for at least 6 days per week.**
- 5. The process of the removal of 453 metres of long-standing hedges and other damage to the natural environment, which itself has developed for many centuries, will result in the destruction of wildlife.**
- 6. The Council understands that there would be a substantial traffic issue resulting in the HGV movements as follows (for a 6 day) week:**

|                | <b>DAILY TRUCKS<br/>INBOUND</b> | <b>TOTAL DAILY<br/>MOVEMENTS<br/>IN + OUT</b> |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>AVERAGE</b> | <b>50</b>                       | <b>100</b>                                    |
| <b>MAXIMUM</b> | <b>110</b>                      | <b>220</b>                                    |

**The addition of this volume of traffic to the existing traffic on the streets of Tatworth and Forton, particularly Station Road and Perry Street, would be intolerable for the 7 years period of the proposed extraction.**

- 7. This site was not included in the Draft Minerals Sites Plan and the examining Inspector at the time concluded that the currently planned supply of aggregate was adequate to meet demand. Therefore, because this is not an allocated sand and gravel site, 'exceptional circumstances' must be shown to be in line with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. The Council does not believe that this test has been met. Somerset does not quarry now, but relies on Devon, and Devon Council supports this application, but says that "if permission were refused the knock-on effect for Devon is likely to be quite small."**
- 8. The Council is very concerned about the lack of a robust consultation process on this specific application. It is acknowledged that there were public exhibitions in 2018 but there has been very little consultation since then. The vast majority of the residents of Chilson, Chilson Common, Perry Street, South Chard and Tatworth are unaware of the way in which this application is now being pursued.**
- 9. The Council notes that there are several issues that have not been addressed and therefore questions the validity of the planning application process. These are:**
  - i) flood risk assessment,**
  - ii) silt press,**
  - iii) archaeology survey,**
  - iv) noise and dust suppression**
  - v) site restoration and landscaping**
  - vi) water quality monitoring.**

**The Council further notes that without these key issues being addressed and scrutinised, the application must be rejected.**

## RESOLUTION

### Planning Application 16/02874/FUL

#### Land adjoining Holbear, Forton Road, Chard.

#### Proposed residential development with associated access and infrastructure.

The Parish Council have previously responded in a consistent and concerned manner since 2016 with the Council's primary focus being the likely impact on Tatworth and Forton.

- Health and Education is **not** sufficiently provided for under these proposals.
- The proposed residential layout and density along with accumulation of hard surfacing in what is currently an agricultural field with severe flooding problems, is likely to have a **significant impact** on our area and is of great concern to this Council and its Parishioners.
- The proposed layout (even as amended) does not sit well with the existing locality of Holbear either in layout, density or proximity. It does **not** enhance the area and the community infrastructure promised is **not** included.
- Highway impact of the proposals could adversely affect not only the central area of Chard but also our adjacent village of Forton if due consideration and mitigation is not proposed and undertaken.

If S.S.D.C. proceed to approve this application Tatworth and Forton Parish Council, having recognized the many concerns within our community, particularly over non delivering of essential appropriate infrastructure and flooding mitigation, may join with others in taking any appropriate action.

Therefore, this Council strongly objects to this proposal and requests that S.S.D.C. and the applicant enter into a meaningful consultation with local residents and this Council.



## Resident - Action Plan

### MY THOUGHTS

It was apparent that further stress was incurred by the number of different telephone numbers that people had to phone for help...

1. There is a need for **ONE** Flood Emergency number only and that **they** interpret what dept is required and they contact them on behalf of our residents in time of **actual** flooding.
2. A list of which dept. is responsible for what issued by the Council would be a great help alongside a contact name and telephone number for normal times.
3. A note of actual legal time for dept, responsibilities to be carried out.
4. Responsible depts. publish timetable for clearance of culverts and gullies within named roads.
5. How to ensure that council departments meet their legal responsibilities and if they do **NOT** what can we do?
6. Who owns land on both sides of the road next to bridge in Waterlake Road covered by heavy vegetation?
7. Publish a series of maps showing the surface water drains throughout the Parish on our web site and if possible in the Drift.
8. Residents notify the PC of any known collapsed culverts.
9. When changes occur eg Somerset Unitary P.C. are informed of any changes with regard to responsibilities .

## Complete a Flood Relief Plan

### RESIDENTS COMMENTS

- Gully and drain cleaning ensure that the culverts are cleared. Clarification on the law regarding this.
  - Flooding at Chard Junction where there is no apparent waterway
  - Identify riparian landowners/residents and inform them of their legal responsibilities including Swiss Tulle
  - Encourage individual residents to continue lobbying elected representatives at all levels and relevant statutory authorities for positive action to mitigate future potential flooding
  - Timetable for clearing of gullies and drains
  - Sandbags are needed.
  - Who or which dept. has ownership of waterways?
  - Encourage individual parishioners to lobby elected representatives and authorities at all levels.
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- **In the longer term:**
  - Endeavour to persuade the landowners where springs rise and feed Forton Brook to consider grant-aided flood mitigation schemes similar to that in Jubilee Field
  - Seek advice from either FWAG, South Somerset DC/Somerset CC or an independent hydro surveyor on an holistic recommendation for flood mitigation in the parish.
  - Ascertain if the various existing watercourses and sinks are fit for purpose and meet the maximum potential to facilitate flood mitigation