

EAL3 res resp 26

RVBC Ref: Forward planning. Mark Hurst. Site 10 Employment land at Higher College Farm.
EAL3 Regulation 19. HED DPD PUBLICATION CONSULTATION

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a GP practicing at Stonebridge surgery in Longridge and as a resident of the Ribble Valley. I am a keen walker and frequently go out into the Ribble Valley and promote it's tourism by through social media and an active blog with a good following across the country. I was appalled to see the planning permission for the site referenced above. I took a walk on the proposed site just two days ago and it is truly an area of outstanding beauty. It has old oak trees which provide vital habitat for wildlife and reduce climate change. There are streams, fields and established hedgerows which are essential for supporting wildlife in the area such as song birds, geese, insects, bees and small rodents. Placing an industrial site here would be disastrous to the area. Not only would it be unsightly but it would be the opposite of the rural lifestyle which the Ribble Valley promotes and upon which its tourism thrives. Longridge is "The Gateway to the Ribble Valley" and put simply an industrial site is not the sort of entrance I feel is representative.

As a regular commuter in the area the traffic is already heavy past both Hillside and Longridge School. Putting an industrial site here with heavy vehicles is a recipe for disaster. There are also serious concerns about the potential for reduction in the air quality due to increased traffic. The medical community are becoming increasingly aware of the negative effects on the respiratory health of children of heavy traffic, particularly from Diesel engines. It also makes little sense for an industrial site to be located so far from the motorway meaning that traffic will need to pass through housing and rural areas to get to the motorways.

As a GP in Longridge I have concerns about the increase in traffic past Hillside School in particular, not to mention the building site proposed next to it. Autistic children require low levels of stimulus to prevent anxiety and to prevent exacerbation of behavioural issues as a result of stressors. The noise from heavy traffic and a building site is likely to put the health of these children at risk.

I am strongly against these proposed plans along with many members of the local community and hope you will take this into account when considering the applications.

