

The Planning Inspectorate

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03 MAR 2010

THE PLANNING
INSPECTORATE
PINS 3

COMMENTS ON CASE

Please note that comments about this case need to be made within the timetable for it. This can be found in the notification letter attached. Comments submitted after the deadline may be considered invalid and returned to sender. Your comments can also be made on-line at www.planningportal.gov

This form will be published on the Planning Portal, please do NOT sign it. This is to ensure that all personal data is protected in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

DETAILS OF THE CASE

WELSH ASSEMBLY GOV. REF H6955/A/10/2122444

Case Reference:

P 2009 / 0449

Address of site

PART FIELD EAST OF SUN LANE
BOWLING BANK
WREXHAM

Postcode
(if known)

SENDER DETAILS

Name

HILARY M. MORRIS

Acting On Behalf Of

(leave blank if writing on
your own behalf)

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

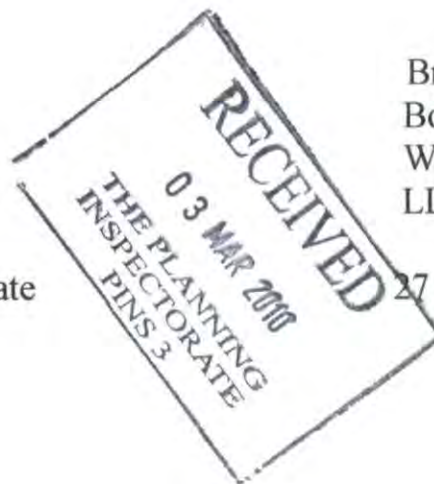
In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?
(Neighbour, Councillor, Owner, Tenant)

NEIGHBOURING OCCUPIER

What kind of representation are you making?

OBJECTION TO PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Bryn Villa
Bowling Bank
Wrexham
LL13 9RT



27 February 2010

The Planning Inspectorate
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Dear Sir,

With reference to the appeal against the refusal of planning consent for Planning ref, P/2009/0449 I should like to reinforce my previous objections to this application.

Firstly, this proposed drilling of an appraisal borehole will cause major disruption to our locality. The objections raised by local residents about the total inadequacy of the road infrastructure for such a development, even if temporary, remain as important now as at the time of the original application. Having now had the opportunity to see a similar drilling site near Crewe-by-Farndon operated by Composite Energy, I am even more convinced that choosing a site in a rural area so far from a relatively wide main road is not wise, considering the size and number of vehicles required to carry out this type of appraisal.

The lanes which would have to be used to approach the proposed site are single carriageway with blind bends and few safe passing places. The verges are soft and uneven and edge deep drainage ditches. Flooding is a common occurrence after heavy rainfall and there have been recent incidences of large vehicles slipping off the carriageway into the ditch. Those of us who regularly walk along the lanes are only too aware of the necessity to take refuge in verges and ditches when large vehicles approach as the lanes are so narrow that to do otherwise could prove fatal. The road surfaces are poor with crumbling edges and broken and cracked tarmac. Further use by large vehicles would only increase the damage. Extensive improvements would have to be undertaken to the track leading on from the public road before access to the proposed site would be possible. This would necessitate a large increase in traffic carrying hardcore even before work on the drilling site could begin. In addition to the danger to pedestrians, many people ride along these quiet lanes and

would be at serious risk from such an increase in large vehicles occupying the full width of the lanes.

Secondly, noise and light pollution from the proposed 24/7 borehole drilling is of great concern to residents who choose to live in a quiet sparsely populated rural area. The lights from the Crewe-by-Farndon site were highly visible to us even though that site is a considerable distance away. In addition, the fact that background noise is at such a low level in the area would make any sound from the site much more noticeable to local residents.

Drainage from this site could be difficult as much of the land is waterlogged during the wetter parts of the year and its close proximity to the River Dee is a further cause of concern. Servicing the proposed site will apparently necessitate removal of all waste including water which again increases heavy traffic flow. Any accidental spillages could cause major pollution problems.

Thirdly, this area has a rich and diverse wildlife associated with fields which still maintain hedgerows and extensive river meadows supporting a wetland ecology. The proposed drilling in such an environment cannot fail to have an adverse impact. The fact that the coal beds are extensive within the area, suggests that there should be relatively nearby sites on the Wrexham Industrial Estate which would not present the same problems to the environment and local residents.

Finally the implications of extracting coal bed methane from this locality with pipeline developments etc. which Composite Energy clearly hope to be a possibility, only serve to reinforce my concerns about causing irreparable damage to an area where only agricultural development is at present allowed.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Hilary M Morris.

Hilary M Morris