



To: planning_admin@wrexham.gov.uk

Date/Dyddiad: 07-09-2020

Our Ref/Ein Cyf:

Direct Dial/

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E-mail/E-bost:

dewi.jones@cambria.ac.uk

Dear Wrexham Borough Council,

RE: P/2020/0363 planning application

I am writing to you on behalf of Coleg Cambria Llysfasi to express our support of planning application P/2020/0363, Five Fords, Wrexham - hub for future low carbon fresh food production.

The plan to construct a state-of-the-art greenhouse on land which lies to the east of the Five Fords Waste-Water Treatment Works is an exciting opportunity for the horticulture and land based sectors in Wales to develop, with the potential to become a nationally significant piece of infrastructure with a significant contribution to the economy of Wales beyond Brexit.

The land chosen is in a unique position with opportunities to link in with Welsh Water and neighbouring Anaerobic Digester Plants while simultaneously having good network links across the region with access to skilled labour from the nearby town of Wrexham.

We understand that the greenhouse will grow high wire crops, likely to be speciality tomatoes, and will employ the latest high-tech growing methods and innovation, whilst also employing 150 people. The proposal to heat the greenhouse using waste heat from the Waste-Water Treatment Works and to use carbon dioxide from the works (currently vented into the atmosphere), piped into the greenhouse to help the plants grow is a blueprint of what can be done at a number of sites across Wales in some of the old industrial heartlands which will regenerate economies in those areas creating jobs and wealth.

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Prif Weithredwr | Chief Executive **Yana Williams**

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The output from the site will also contribute to the local economy, generating an impressive 29 kg/m² of cherry plum tomatoes or 200 cucumbers/m², equating to over 4,000 tonnes of tomatoes or 30 million cucumbers. To achieve these yields while at the same time sequestering 4,500t of CO₂ is not only impressive but should be a celebrated achievement.

The project has sought to develop local partnerships with land-based further and higher education universities and colleges looking to enhance their local offering to increase the opportunities in horticultural, agronomy and agri-tech industries. The potential for a long-term partnership could see Wrexham as being the hub for horticulture type training for the whole of Wales thus attracting further investments in the Colleges involved including Coleg Cambria.

Coleg Cambria Llysfasi

The Llysfasi site of Coleg Cambria based just west of Wrexham has a deep history in the delivery of quality education over almost 100 years. Llysfasi Farm sits within an area of outstanding natural beauty in the Vale of Clwyd, North Wales, it is 970 acres and has three main enterprises; beef, sheep and dairy. In addition, Coleg Cambria provides a range of Horticultural courses at our Northop site.

We are recognised as industry leaders in land-based education and have established an excellent reputation. We are always keen to collaborate with and support relevant projects and share our knowledge of food production including the use of sustainable systems and technologies to enhance and protect the environment.

The college continues to build partnerships and links with national and global organisations which include Farming Connect (in Wales), LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) programme for National schools competition, Kubota and AGCO apprenticeship schemes, Tilhill Forestry Diploma, and the PreciseAg (Precision Agriculture) project in partnership with University of Wales Aberystwyth.

Our vision is to deliver excellence in renewable energy technologies that will act as an innovation demonstrator platform and test bed for new and existing renewable low carbon technologies. This will facilitate growth in the commercial Agricultural and growing sectors in North Wales and wider regions through the efficient use of digital precision primary food production.



The 5 Fords project in Wrexham proposed by Low Carbon Farming has a direct link with our vision as a learning centre of excellence in land based education and renewable technologies. This would bring benefits to our learners and employees in North Wales for future growth and stability.

It is imperative that educational establishments and future horticulturalists have access to facilities such as the 5 Fords project, which will offer bespoke high tech on site training and education.

Benefits this 5 Fords project would bring to Llysfas (plus other Coleg Cambria Campuses) and our learners of land based and technology based students

- Increased the skills and knowledge of our learners- to ensure that they are industry ready in this sector
- Promotes careers/increased job opportunities in the land based/food production/technologies sectors for students
- Potential to deliver accredited apprenticeship programme qualifications specific to the 5 Fords initiative
- Increase the skills levels of the workforce through formal qualifications /National programme and raising awareness of this career pathway
- Access for student work experience/work placements to learn on site at the 5 Fords facilities
- Retain young people in the area with the high end skills for long term employment and the ability to maintain successful individuals and groups in the rural environment.
- Links learning with the latest innovations within Agricultural science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM)
- Raise awareness and profile of food production and environmental benefits using this system

It is vital that the College can support and get involved with initiatives like this project to ensure that our current students and future farmers and horticultural growers learn from and gain knowledge and experience of innovation and sustainable food production systems.



With so many opportunities to support the learning of our students and wider community, Coleg Cambria Llysfasi supports this planning application.

Cofion / Yours sincerely

Mrs Elin Roberts
Pennaeth Cynorthwyol astudiaethau
Technegol ac arweinydd safle Llysfasi
/ Assistant Principal of Technical studies
and site lead Llysfasi
Coleg Cambria Llysfasi

Mr Dewi Jones
Rheolwr Ffarm / Farm Manager
Coleg Cambria Llysfasi