

Lamyatt Parish Meeting response to the consultation

2020/0581/FUL Demolition of existing pig fattening unit, erection of 8 storage units together with welfare facilities, parking and landscaping works at Lambrook Pig Unit

The Parish view is to **support the application** subject to reaching agreement on some areas of concern, by conditions. The rationale for this is explained further below. Concerns raised by residents have been the focus of discussions with the applicant, and the applicants have advised they could accommodate these. We would ask that Mendip District Council incorporate these into any planning approval:

- (A) Hours of operation - to be limited to normal business hours (Mon-Fri 8am-6pm; Sat 8am-1pm)
- (B) Lighting - to be limited to use for low daylight winter operations and otherwise to be security lighting, using sensors, at night.
- (C) Noise – the refrigeration units to be at the furthest ends of each store with adequate sound insulation
- (D) Number of vehicle movements – to be monitored and kept to the maximum current number of vehicle movements with all lorry movements being routed from Wyke Farms Ltd sites to the A371, without impacting on minor roads in the village.
- (E) Landscaping and screening – that an amended and improved screening plan be devised to reduce any visual impact on local residents

Wyke Farms Ltd are a significant employer and contributor to the local economy. We see this proposal as a good re-use of an existing site which will enable the company to complete more cheese processing on site, which is preferable to the reinstatement of intensive pig farming.

With previous significant planning applications the company has been able to attend a parish meeting to help explain any proposals. As an example of this, meetings were held a few years ago to discuss the then proposed bio-digesters and villagers were given the opportunity to ask questions and come away with a better understanding of the development. Given the current lockdown situation then clearly it has not been possible for a similar meeting to be held to better understand the current plans and provide opportunities for questions. Some villagers have also had problems accessing all of the documents on the Mendip planning portal. A few villagers have been very concerned about the application and are opposed to the application.

The Parish planning group invited all in the Parish to raise issues or concerns so that Wyke could be asked to clarify aspects of their application. Subsequently Wyke

Farms Ltd have been very open in their discussions with the Parish and have managed to clarify the 5 areas raised in those discussions. In addition a member of the village who is knowledgeable in terms of the scope for improved tree-planting in order to screen the proposed development was invited to visit the site and based on his close observations he was able to make some detailed recommendations which we believe Wyke Farms will be able to take forward and to which they have agreed.

The Parish has broadcast this information, and the detail of the discussions with Wyke Farms, using village e-mail and the village website page (Lamyatt Matters) and the vast majority of local residents who have been in touch with the Parish Chairman have supported these views.

We look forward to working constructively with Wyke Farms and their agents on this application.

Paul Chadwick

Lamyatt Parish Chairman

29th April 2020