

Red Lodge Eye

(Red Lodge Residents' Association)

44 Warren Road, Red Lodge, IP28 8JH

01638 552753; redlodgevillage@hotmail.co.uk

Re: F/2008/0470/FUL

Proposed relocation of Red Lodge Transport Cafe/Truck Stop

16 July 2008

Dear Resident

The truck stop planning application has been submitted and we have less than two weeks to submit our opinion to Forest Heath.

What are the advantages of a new truck stop on the A11?

- The only possible answer can be "to get the trucks out of Red Lodge".

We believe it is misleading to call this application the "relocation" of the truck stop: What guarantee is there that the existing truck stop will move? The owners don't have to move. Has a deal really been negotiated? Might we end up with two truck stops?

What are the disadvantages of a new truck stop on the A11?

- As indicated above, the possibility of TWO truck stops.
- Lorries from the A14 driving through Kentford, Kennett, Hundred Acre Way and Warren Road.
- There is lots of room for expansion of the proposed site.
- It is too close to the village.
- It will not provide a good return on the investment - so what is the ulterior motive of the developer?
- The site is greenfield and ESA (environmentally sensitive area).

I would like to emphasise that we fully appreciate the urgent need for truck stops. There are too few - because they are not profitable. The state has no comprehensive policy or plan to provide truckers with proper facilities - which should include fuel - in the right places at reasonable intervals. They should not be built willy-nilly any-old-where: ***there must be a proper plan***. Most importantly of all, truck stops should NOT be built within at least one mile of residential areas or where the drivers might be tempted to take short cuts through these areas.

There are a number of residents, especially along the Turnpike Road, who would like to see the lorries kept out of the village and off of the Turnpike Road. We believe that a huge improvement could be made by barring the Turnpike Road to lorries so that they would have to enter and leave the existing truck stop at the southern end of the village. We realise that this would cause some difficulty in one direction, but this could be overcome with planning.

We believe that there are alternatives, which are well away from residential areas, such as the BP garages on the A14/A11 Newmarket bypass.

There is the possibility of a link road for the A14 and A11 - another potential suitable site.

We also believe that until the A11 is duelled from the Five Ways roundabout at Barton Mills to Thetford, we should be trying to reduce all traffic, especially HGVs, on the A11.

There is a steering group trying to find truck stop sites. But at the moment it is rather like the drowning man clutching a straws and grabbing any available opportunity, however inappropriate it may be.

You may have seen in the press that our MP supports our view.

I am attaching a letter of objection for your use, if you agree with us that this application is inappropriate. This must be returned to Forest Heath ***no later than 1st August 2008***

Ian Harris

Your Name and Address.....
.....
.....
.....

To: The Planning Department
Forest Heath District Council
College Heath Road
Mildenhall
Suffolk IP28 7EY

Date.....

Dear Sirs

OBJECTION

Re: F/2008/0470/FUL
Proposed relocation of Red Lodge Transport Cafe/Truck Stop

I/we object to the above application for the following reasons:

- 1 It is too close to the village of Red Lodge
- 2 It will attract lorries through Red Lodge, Kentford and Kennett from the A14
- 3 It is the wrong place:
 it should be on a link road (A14/A11)
 or it should be on the BP garages site on the A14/A11 Newmarket bypass
- 4 It will increase congestion at Barton Mills' Five Ways roundabout
- 5 It may become the SECOND truck stop in Red Lodge
- 6 The site is big enough for great expansion
- 7 It will open up the countryside for further development of greenfield land
- 8 Jobs created will be negligible - IF the existing truck stop closes, staff will simply re-locate.
If this becomes a second truck stop, there will only be 12 PART time jobs.
- 9 There are no fuelling facilities
- 10 As admitted by the developer, it will not be profitable

Any further points you may wish to make.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Yours faithfully

Signed.....