

FARRINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

EAST DEVON VILLAGES PLAN COMMENT Ref: Business Parks

Farringdon Parish Council strongly support the findings of the inspector and EDDC with regard to limitation of the business parks Greendale and Hill Barton. Over the last 20 years there has been a massive expansion of these industrial sites resulting in a substantial loss of agricultural land and bringing bad neighbour industries such as landfill, composting, cement plants and skip hire operations in very close proximity to the residential houses of Farringdon.

Consequently the loss of amenity to residents has also grown and the parish council regularly receives complaints regarding : - the glaring lights from the Mercedes car business; the clanking of the landfill machines emptying; the reversing beepers of the skip hire machines; the wear and tear on the lanes from large vehicles; the noise from the site including several recent “explosions” in the early hours of the morning; smells from the composting ; etc etc. Despite being told to report it to the EA, EDDC and the site owner, little can be done to contain the overall culmulative noise of the site and with each further operation permitted the noise and other loss of amenity grows. We are still awaiting some of the waste to energy plants to be commissioned and up and running so more impact and loss of amenity is yet to come.

Farringdon parish now contains 3 industrial sites – Greendale, Hill Barton and Waldrons. An additional site by another land owner was only recently turned down. Pressure by site owners for the local authorities to permit more and more land for industrial use is relentless. As part of the original landfill application in 1994 a large hedge was planted as screening and a buffer zone between the site and the village. The land to the east of this remained agricultural land until 2014 when to the disappointment of the community DCC gave permission for this field to also be used for an extension of the site. The mature hedge and screening was destroyed thus bringing the site ever closer to residential homes with no significant gain to the community.

The number of applications given approval on this one compact area of land since 2014 now include: extension of the existing landfill tip; waste transfer building; wood gasification plant ;energy generation plant; ; digestate lagoon. 2 additional applications currently pending on the same field are :-installation of 14 containerised gas fired standby generators over 9 metres high , transformer compound, switch store room, oil storage tank ; 10 containerised units for electricity storage and associated infrastructure.

We are in the process of undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan . Recently a survey of working practices in Farringdon was carried out. The findings showed that a large proportion of people living in Farringdon work from home. There appeared no evidence of people being employed at Hill Barton. After a recent visit to view the new Brooke Energy plant we were informed that with automation one man alone is all that will be needed to operate the Energy plant. The current EDDC application pending is for electricity storage and after installation will again provide minimal employment

The Parish Plan undertaken in 2008 (with an 85% response) cited industrial creep as a priority concern. Unless there are restrictions put in place for the containment the area will continue to lose even more agricultural fields and rural character . The visual impact will result in one large sprawling industrial site joined all along the A3052 for several miles right up to the edge and behind, Farringdon houses.

Residents are continually battling loss of amenity. It is imperative there are limitations set in place. Farringdon as a settlement and community was in existence long before the business parks. We wholeheartedly support the findings of the inspector and EDDC

Mrs A Sayers Parish Clerk