

PROPOSED WISLOE DEVELOPMENT

This major development in a predominantly rural area is very much in the wrong place. Whilst Stroud District Council (SDC) is charged by the Government to provide a certain number of houses, the developments already planned and approved in Cam will be more than enough for this area, especially when services and communications are concerned. I see no indication on this proposal that any services other than a primary school are planned, there is little in the way of employment planned (and this may never come to fruition) and 3000 more vehicles joining already crowded roads will cause transport problems. The occupiers of such a large estate will have little option but to use their vehicles to travel to find employment due to the current lack of public transport available. The A.38 Road, the only way in and out of this site, is already full to capacity at busy times, witness the holdups caused when a single lane was closed at Whitminster Roundabout on 13th January 2020 which stretched back as far as Slimbridge Roundabout.

The area planned for this development does not currently flood but such a large hard catchment area will cause major increases in both surface water and sewage outlet and the Slimbridge area is already well known to suffer problems with handling both of these; in fact it has only recently been able to separate sewage from surface water and to prevent both from flowing freely through the village.

I am appalled that the Ernest Cook Trust (ECT), a charity set up to encourage proper use and education in agriculture and the land in general should feel able and willing to offer something approaching 100 acres of fertile, productive and profitable land in its tenure for such development especially as ECT sponsors an educational function in and around Redwood, part of its Slimbridge estate. As a charity the funds available to ECT are not those of its trustees, in fact the trustees are, I understand, charged to use those funds to the best possible method of furthering the charitable trust aims and objectives. Once land is sold it is no longer a viable asset and certainly weakens any organisations seem to me that GCC and ECT may have been given tacit approval by SDC as they are pressing on with the proposal in face of fierce opposition.

There are better and more suitable sites which SDC, having spoken to their representatives at the public 'consultation' meetings, seem unwilling to consider, providing a raft of reasons why they see that these alternatives are not acceptable. Of course it is not every day that 160 or so acres or so comes along offered by the owners for development and I can see why SDC is keen to be able to utilise the site. However, such an offer on such a large plot of land with the promise of easy building does not make it right! Pollution would play a very large part once this site became developed and once built there would be nothing anyone could do about easing that pollution. No matter what steps are taken to plant trees or provide earth bunds, noise and fumes will find their way onto the site and will not be easily dispersed.

If ever approved, this development would effectively join Cam to itself with the obvious implications for Slimbridge, Cambridge and all of the Parish.

The only place for such a large development is adjacent to good transport links and/or good employment opportunities. Neither exist here and none are planned.

For all of the reasons given above I object to this proposal and I do so on behalf of my children, my children's children, all of whom live in Slimbridge Parish and of their successors. This proposal, if allowed, will destroy a large pleasant rural area and join it irretrievably and join it onto Cam and Dursley where it will become anonymous.

