

Locals 'not told' about industrial estate plan

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LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A proposal for a large-scale expansion of one of North Yorkshire's leading industrial estates, which could lead to the creation of 100 jobs, has been put on hold after locals complained they had not been made aware of the scheme.

Hambleton District Council's planning committee unanimously voted to postpone a decision on the redevelopment of five hectares of disused agricultural buildings, parts of the runways of the former RAF Dalton airfield, and areas of grassland next to Dalton Airfield Industrial Estate.

The development would feature 16,750sq m of buildings for industrial, distribution and office uses between the villages of Topcliffe and Dalton and would operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A council officers' report said there was potential for 100 new jobs and significant additional employment and trade opportunities in the construction phase, as well as wider economic benefits through supply chains.

The report added environmental health officers had concluded there was "a potential that the development would have an adverse impact on nearby residents", particularly as the applicants were seeking no operating time restrictions.

The meeting was told that neither Topcliffe and Dalton parish councils were aware of the scheme until five days before the meeting.

A planning officer said the authority had checked its systems and "letters definitely did go out" to the parish councils and they did not know why residents were unaware of the proposals.

The meeting was told the poten-

tial for more HGVs had alarmed residents in Topcliffe as they had been in talks with North Yorkshire County Council to address traffic issues for more than a year.

Trading standards officers had undertaken one traffic prosecution recently and others were "on file".

Nevertheless, the meeting was told the parish council wanted the developer to fund the enforcement of HGVs on their route to and from the industrial estate. The council said it had not had a chance to fully examine the proposals.

Jamie Moores, chairman of Topcliffe Parish Council, said the industrial estate had seen four expansion proposals "fed to us piecemeal" over the last two years, representing the largest development since Sowerby Gateway homes and business scheme was approved a decade ago.

He said while the proposals would all have significant traffic implications for the surrounding area, the officers' report had examined a range of issues, but failed to address how it might affect residents.

Coun Moores said: "The conclusion that I drew from reading the report was that seagulls got more attention than the villagers.

"It's been mentioned that the parish councils didn't find out about it until Saturday. I think there's an even more important thing to consider here because the public don't know about it and they still don't know about it."

He said the planning application advert had been placed in *The Easingwold Advertiser* which was not sold in any of the nearby villages and a notice about the proposed development had been placed beside a road along which nobody walked and traffic passed at 40mph.

Lanterns back after dark



More than a hundred handmade lanterns lit up Lister Park in a spectacular parade, which made a welcome return after having to be cancelled during the coronavirus pandemic. Some of the lanterns were made at w



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