



Lesley Westphal
Planning Department
Tandridge District Council

(Sent via email)

31 October 2018
Our Ref: ZA27970

Dear Mrs Westphal,

RE: Moorhouse Parcel Depot – Planning Application 2018/1792

I write once again following a third application to convert the Moorhouse Tiles site to a DPD parcel distribution centre. I am disappointed to see that while some minor changes have been made to the application since 2016, the fundamental and major problems that the development would pose remain prevalent. This being the case, I object to this application in the strongest possible terms.

As with the last application, the volume of traffic this development would create cannot be accommodated on the local road network. Given the lack of good access to the motorway, the extra volume of traffic would have to be accommodated on the already congested A25. The road is often busy at rush hour and is regularly used as an alternative route should the M25 be disrupted. The road is narrow at many points and below the national standard through several local villages. Surrey's roads are already under a great deal of strain and I do not believe it would be sensible to allow this kind of development, which has traffic movement at its heart.

Furthermore, there are a number of concerns about the reliability of the traffic predictions, as well as the potential for expansion at the site should this application be accepted. The predictions provided by the applicant should therefore be carefully considered. It is also important to consider that, given the remote location and lack of public transport links to the site, the traffic impact could be greater given the need for employees to drive to work. As I said in previous correspondence on this issue, smaller villages through which the A25 runs are already struggling with the traffic volumes, particularly of larger vehicles and HGVs, and granting this application could prove to be a tipping point for the towns along the route.

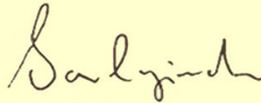
It is clear that there would be considerable local impact on the surrounding communities should this application be granted. Of course job creation is to be welcomed, however I remain concerned that the jobs that the site would generate are, according to the applicant, likely to go to people that live in places like Redhill, East Grinstead, Crawley or Croydon. It seems, therefore, that the residents of East Surrey would suffer the consequences of the development, while enjoying few, if any, of the benefits.

The special character and beauty of our area are to be cherished and it is vital that we all do everything in our power to protect them. I understand you will be receiving representations from campaign group Save Oxted's Roads and Environment, as well as former County Councillor Nick Skellett who has worked on this issue for a number of years. These go into further detail about the impact of increased traffic, as well as concerns about the impact on the environment and have my full backing. I hope the points they raise will be seriously considered.

While I am sure we would all be keen to see this site redeveloped for the benefit of the local community, I remain convinced that the application is entirely unsuitable for this location.

I would therefore encourage you in the strongest possible terms to reject this application.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Gyimah', written in a cursive style.

Sam Gyimah MP