Dear Sirs

Please read the attached dated prior to the 20th of February 2019 deadline.

Clive Pither
Application 2018/1792/1 Moorhouse Tile Works

My name is Clive Pither and I have been a resident of Westerham for some 30 years on Westerham Hill to the North of the proposed development which is on behalf of DPD.

There is very little genuine substance in proposing a development of this scale and impact upon a rural, non-industrial district, even less an area of outstanding natural beauty, further protected as greenbelt. This point alone is a basis for rejection, especially as TDC local plan 2033 policy TLP02 (para 23.17 I believe) endorses no incursion of this kind. Exceptional circumstances is a totally spurious diversion from reality and would by all normal standards be discredited.

The simple truth is, great as DPD’s need and no matter how much money is thrown at it to make it happen, it needs to be happening somewhere else. Perhaps a genuine large brown field complex would be better.

Viewed from the North Downs looking down, or up from Moorhouse Bank to the South, the current Tile Works site is largely invisible particularly in the summer when fully screened by trees. The DPD structure is one gross mass rather than modest, random buildings as at present and will be obvious by size and scale at any time night or day and especially at night.

A 24/7 illuminated and bustling business in the middle of previously dark and starlit night skies and farmland will be as obvious as rape is to the victim and similar in effect; possibly creating a trauma that lasts years? Indeed, in a world that is “heating up”, society of the near-future may well ask how such a massive increase in traffic could have been allowed within the green-lungs of the Surrey/Kent border, killing communities and wildlife?

Making a decision in-committee for expedience’s sake is easy. Why not come out and stand on the ground, look around and breathe the air before you make a catastrophic decision that was “easy” but ultimately devastating in consequence.

How will the owl’s feel that currently fly free in darkness? The small bird population already in serious decline, suffering further loss of habitat and along a floodplain, toads, newts, perhaps the only colony left in southern England disappear because for a mere decade or two people must have their parcels? Thousands of years of diverse wildlife snuffed out because of the councils short sighted vision of what must be.
Look at a map showing the area of the M25 around London. Greenbelt as shown by the colour green is now only evident along the North Downs corridor as a virtual solid green, it’s worth fighting to retain it, because the other bits of green on the map are being snuffed out!

Accept DPD’s proposal and watch our green bit shrink.

Air pollution locally was recently shown as having stabilised (if not reduced) it would take gigantic indifference regarding our air quality for any Tandridge Councillor to allow a massive and concentrated increase in lorry traffic to compromise this. In another 25 years perhaps and looking back, two things, a greatly increased loss of life from asthma, lung disease, etc., as a human cost and another redundant parcel hub in the middle of what was glorious countryside. Look at where we are going!

The increased traffic-flow cannot be justified without a total re-design at massive cost, of the road and rail infrastructure as our current roads and virtually extinct rail cannot handle it.

In my experience of DPD, most parcels are delivered by drivers of limited English and obviously Eastern European or foreign nationals. This does not appear to help “local employment”? I don’t believe DPD will change it’s low pay, high productivity business model to allow a benefit to anyone, on any scale, of local origin.

Putting it bluntly, the whole concept stinks and despite the obvious attraction to Tandridge Council in business rates and an occupied rather than a derelict site, is completely wrong, a fact known by residents but will the Counsellors join them in rejecting this wholly unsuitable proposal?

The public can only wait and pray.

Yours sincerely

Clive Pither