



Bothenhampton & Walditch

Parish Council since 1886

Debbie Redding
Planning Officer
Dorset Council
South Walks House
South Walks Road
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1UZ

21st October 2019

Dear Ms Redding

RE: HOMESTEAD FARM, MAIN STREET, BOTHENHAMPTON WD/ENF/19/00024 /
NMA APPLICATION REFERENCE WD/D/19/002277

At our meeting on 14th October there was a huge sense of relief that the NMA Application had been refused by the Dorset Council Planning. The Parish Council agreed to write to you to express their thanks for the work you have done on this.

Confusion remains however, as to what the next steps by the applicant Mr Hughes or his professional advisors, might take and how the villagers can prepare for it.

The residents of Bothenhampton expressed their view that the alarm bells should have rung over the original planning application because of its hand-drawn graphics and its ambition. They were also concerned that they had to spend so much of their own money to deliver a response that led to a change of mind. Some felt the Parish Council should have employed a professional adviser to do this work. They did agree, however, that if the Planning Department had been better resourced, more time would have been spent on it before the first permission was given. It was also pointed out that it is rare for a developer to deviate to such an extent from the permission and unreasonable to expect the Planners to anticipate this degree of non-compliance.

The Parish Council is increasing spend on Planning training for new councillors so we can be better informed about the process. It would help us if your officers can advise us about handling future applications from Mr Hughes and parishioner response.

Yours sincerely

A J Basker
Chairman
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CC: Mike Garrity