

FDOG October Update

Stop3000Trucks

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In our August update, we let you know that Frampton's, the planning consultants representing the developers, had uploaded new documents which addressed objections from the Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA), Canal & River Trust, Anglian Water and the Bedford Drainage Board. The LLFA have now responded and whilst some of their concerns have been addressed their overall verdict is clear. "The [new] information provided is NOT satisfactory to demonstrate that the proposed surface water drainage scheme for the proposed development will adequately manage flood risk in accordance with Policy BN7 of West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy". They also warn that the development introduces a new engineered residual risk to downstream communities and fails to explore whether or not other more natural solutions could be achieved.

FDOG continues to scrutinise every aspect of the application and at their request, has briefed two local Parish Councils on recent submissions to WNC by the developers. At the October meetings of Cosgrove and Old Stratford Parish Councils the proposals were discussed. Recognising the complexity of the documents, Cosgrove PC resolved to commission a professional Flood Risk Review to identify any further technical flaws in the developer's proposals. In a similar vein, Old Stratford PC has commissioned a Transport Review which will realistically assess the impact of traffic flows in the area. FDOG hugely appreciates this support which will help to ensure that the community's concerns are represented with rigour and credibility. FDOG has also directly funded a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment review, which can be found here:

stop3000trucks.org/consultant-reviews.

We have had sight of the first drafts of these reports, and like our previous expert reviews, they identify serious flaws in the developer's proposals. Detailed findings will be included in next month's update.

The developers have also submitted a further response to the points concerning ecology and biodiversity made by Bioscan, our expert Ecological Consultants and WNC's Ecology Department. Our ecological consultant has reviewed these documents and again found many omissions, errors and issues that have simply been ignored. This latest response and review can be found here: stop3000trucks.org/consultant-reviews.

Some of you may have spotted FDOG's Wayne Evans, who featured on an episode of BBC Politics East in September, where he reiterated "this is the wrong project in the wrong place and we don't need more warehouses". While the format didn't allow Wayne to respond directly to the panel, the politicians agreed that local voices must be heard and that the Local Plan exists to protect communities. As we know, there are many areas where the application DOES NOT comply with the Local Plan and it's the Planning Committee's duty to enforce that. You can watch the clip here: stop3000trucks.org/bbc-politics-east.

Finally, some very good news just in: On Tuesday, West Northants Council's Strategic Planning Committee voted almost unanimously to reject the proposed development AL4,

just off the A43 near Silverstone and Whittlebury. We extend our congratulations and admiration for the Save Towcester Now campaign group and all those who worked hard opposing another misplaced development. There are several similarities between this development and Furtho- namely, non-compliance with the Local Plan regarding size and use of the units; increased traffic in the area; visual impact and lack of sustainable access. This encouraging result has helped renew our determination in fighting the Furtho development, and demonstrates that local voices can and will be heard if they speak up as one.

The deadline for submitting comments on the planning portal has been extended again, now closing on 1st Nov 2025. If you haven't yet shared your views, please do so as every voice counts.

Lastly, a reminder that tickets for the Curry Night fundraiser are now on sale and selling like hot curries! Expect an evening of sumptuous food, spices, music and dance. Reserve your place here: stop3000trucks.org/currynight. Tickets sold out fast for our last event, so don't delay.

All of us on the FDOG Steering Committee appreciate your support and encouragement. For more information, please send us an email: info@stop3000trucks.org or visit stop3000trucks.org