

This may feel like déjà vu, but once again we've been told that the Furtho Pit

warehouse application will *not* be heard at the April WNC Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). We now hear it *might* be pushed to May, though this is still unconfirmed. No reason has been given for the delay.

Meanwhile, April is a busy month for us. FDOG has been invited to present at the Annual Parish Assemblies for both Cosgrove (15 April) and Old Stratford (28 April). We've been preparing a full update on what has happened over the past year, and it's fair to say there has been a lot.

- Cosgrove Parish Council commissioned an additional hydrology review.
- Old Stratford Parish Council brought in a new transport consultant to examine traffic and access issues.
- FDOG commissioned an independent Landscape & Visual Impact review.
- Ecological consultants Bioscan, frustrated that many of their earlier concerns remain unanswered, were ready to submit a further ecological review before even being asked.

As we've pulled all this together for the Parish meetings and for our own briefing to SPC members, one thing is clear: there are still major gaps, inconsistencies, and unanswered questions in the developer's submission. It's hard not to wonder whether the ongoing delays reflect the sheer number of unresolved issues that make this application impossible to approve in its current form.

You may remember that we were refused permission to bring our new 1:500 scale model of the proposed warehouses to the SPC. We challenged this, but WNC confirmed that any visual material must be approved by both the Council *and* the applicant; and the applicant has refused consent. They also refused permission for a public exhibition of the model at The Forum in Towcester ahead of the meeting.

We understand the need to avoid anything that could be seen as lobbying, but it's difficult to ignore the obvious: the model makes it abundantly clear that the so-called "small to medium units" allocated in the Local Plan have morphed into mega-sheds. No wonder the applicant doesn't want councillors, or the public, to see it. We're not deterred. Many of you will have the chance to view the model at the Cosgrove and Old Stratford Parish Assemblies, and we hope it helps people visualise the true scale of what is being proposed.

The latest formal objection deadline (12 April) has now passed, but you can still submit comments right up until the SPC meeting, whenever that finally takes place. As always, the FDOG Steering Committee is deeply grateful for your continued support. This is our last opportunity to show the Council the strength of feeling in our community and to protect our rural landscape. For updates and information, visit Stop3000Trucks.org, facebook.com/stop3000trucks, or email info@stop3000trucks.org