



ELTON PARISH COUNCIL

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F.A.O. Nicholas Smith – Case Officer
Cheshire West & Chester Planning Department
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29 April 2019

Dear Mr Smith

Planning Application Reference Number: 19/00969/FUL

Site: Encirc Glass Ltd, Ash Road, Elton, Chester CH2 4LF

Proposal: The erection of a replacement 3 metre high acoustic mitigation barrier along Ash Road, Elton

I am writing on behalf of Elton Parish Council in relation to the above Planning Application. Following a meeting with residents on Thursday 25 April 2019 it was agreed that the Parish Council would write to make representations on behalf of residents.

Members of the public raised their concerns in relation to all 3 recent Planning Applications by Encirc Glass Ltd; 19/00623/FUL Demolition of the existing loading canopy and erection of a two-storey extension to the production hall, Planning Application 18/04948/S73 for Variation of Condition 4 (HCV movements) of Planning Permission 17/01820/S73 to remove the requirement to reduce movements over time and Planning Permission 19/00969/FUL the erection of a replacement 3 metre high acoustic mitigation barrier along Ash Road. Residents feel that all 3 of these applications should be looked at as a whole rather than as individual applications and residents requested that the Parish Council write to Cheshire West & Chester Council on their behalf to request that you consider all 3 applications as a whole.



Residents' main concerns in relation to all 3 Planning Applications are:

- Loss of amenity in relation to the 3 metre high barrier along the full length of Ash Road – the visual impact and obscured views looking across towards Helsby Hill and surrounding countryside, feeling as though they are being penned in by an intrusive and unsightly barrier. The green space on entering the Village has an open and welcoming appearance which will be lost if there is an unsightly barrier obstructing this green space. The visual impact of a 3 metre high barrier as you enter the Village would have a huge impact on residents' amenity and anyone visiting the Village. The current 2 metre high barrier was installed approximately 10 years ago. It has taken that time for the greenery planted 10 years ago to disguise the current barrier and it has only just started to blend in with its surroundings. This current greenery would have to be removed to install the proposed new 3 metre barrier. Greenery to cover the proposed 3 metre barrier would then take considerably longer than the 10 years it took to disguise the 2 metre barrier. Residents fear they would have to live with an unsightly barrier until the greenery regrows. Residents also feared in the meantime the barrier would be vulnerable to graffiti/vandalism during the years it took the greenery to grow. Residents raised concerns at the pot holes, erosion of the roadway around manhole covers which rattled as HGV's drove over them, ruts in the road surface and constant disrepair/roadworks to repair the road, manhole covers and collapsed drains along Ash Road. Residents felt all these necessary repairs were due to the HGVs using this road.
- Noise – Residents felt that the current barrier did not adequately reduce the impact of noise with the current level of HGV movements along Ash Road. They felt that this was acknowledged within Encirc's own noise assessment in their Planning Application. It was also noted that Encirc's own noise assessment acknowledges that even with the proposed 3 metre barrier this would not mitigate noise levels below moderate to parts of the Village during certain time periods and would have a negligible effect on noise levels. Residents stated they felt that the noise from not only the road but also the Encirc Factory at weekends had a huge effect on their ability to relax. One resident said that she had raised the issue with Cheshire West & Chester Council that she felt the noise at weekends was particularly intrusive and noise exceeded levels because managers were not there to monitor/control this.
- Pollution/Diesel Emissions/Impact on Health/Traffic – UK Central Government acknowledges the harmful effects of diesel emissions and has a policy in place to reduce these by 2040. How does Encirc's proposals of increasing the HGV movements by the proposed amount in its Planning Application 18/04948/S73 fit in with Government Policies to reduce harmful diesel emissions? Central Government is also advocating a multimodal transport policy moving freight away from the roadways and onto alternative modes of transport so how does Encirc's Planning Application 18/04948/S73 fit into this policy? Residents don't feel that Encirc have explored the use of alternative routes of transport or that if they have, then they have chosen the cheapest route (ie; road). Residents feel that Encirc is putting the economics of its business first. Residents expressed that they feel Encirc could and should use other alternative transport methods and alternative routes to its factory. Residents feel that the growth of Encirc



should not be at the detriment of residents' loss of amenity or health, safety and wellbeing. It must also not be underestimated the impact on the emotional and mental health of residents that having a "barrier" built at the entrance of the Village will have together with the effect of "penning" in residents and obstructing their amenity.

- Health & Safety – Ash Road is a single carriageway and residents felt it unsuitable for Encirc's proposed amount of HGV movements. Residents expressed their concerns at the current level of HGV movements and their concerns for resident's safety due to HGV drivers getting lost, driving on the wrong side of the road and taking incorrect routes through the Village.
- Environmental Impact – Residents felt the overall environmental impact of the proposed barrier and the proposed increase to HGV movements would have a huge environmental impact. They requested that the Parish Council write to Cheshire West & Chester and request that an environmental impact study be carried out, as part of their duty of care, on the overall effect of all three recent Encirc Planning Applications as they felt that the overall impact of these applications would be detrimental. The Chair agreed that the Clerk would do this.
- Suitability of Access – the main entrance into the Village off the A5117 onto Ince Lane is a single carriageway. The current access into the Village is already overloaded. Turning off Ince Lane onto Ash Road and off Ash Road onto Ince Lane to exit the Village is already hazardous and residents consider it unsuitable even at the current levels of HGV movements. The only access to one of the main housing estates in Elton is off/onto Ash Road and residents already feel the impacts of this when entering/exiting the estate. Residents expressed concern at the constant disrepair of Ash Road. Even when repairs are carried out it doesn't take long before the areas surrounding the manhole covers are crumbling again and the drains rattle as HGVs drive across them.
- Unauthorised stopping/parking of HGVs along Ash Road and Orchard Park Lane whilst waiting their timeslot to access the Encirc site or parking up overnight on both these roads to avoid paying to do so at Chester Services on M56.
- HGVs taking unauthorised routes through the Village or getting lost and driving on unsuitable roads for HGVs, making 180 degree turns on residential streets within the Village, which is dangerous, blocks roads and creates a build-up of traffic and happens quite frequently. This also happens frequently at night and in the early hours and the reversing warnings from HGVs wake residents.

For the reasons detailed above Elton Parish Council wish to formally object to this Planning Application.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Bellis
Elton Parish Clerk