

12th November 2008

Mr P Ridley
Head of Planning Services
Suffolk Coastal District Council
Melton Road
Woodbridge
Suffolk IP12 1AU

Dear Mr Ridley

Planning Applications C08/1854 – Land south of Grundisburgh Road, Tuddenham St Martin – Changes of use of agricultural land to parkland burial site with provision for informal public access and creation of new vehicular access

1. The Suffolk Preservation Society (the Society) are pleased to be able to submit the following representations aimed at assisting the LPA in its determination of the above application.
2. This is an unusual application. The Society appreciates there is a demand for “green” burial sites and shortage of sites and suitable countryside in which to locate them.
3. This proposal is one that has, understandably, generated considerable concern to the local communities which has in turn generated a number of calls to the Society asking them to comment on the proposal. Those concerns appear to emanate from the lack of information on what precisely is proposed and involved and the sheer scale of the proposal given that it appears to cover, in total, some 97 acres or 32 hectares.
4. The nature and form of the application means that there is, at this stage, little if any detail. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, for third parties to properly assess the impact of the proposal. If we and they cannot do that then it is equally impossible at this stage to offer representations on the application. The Society is concerned the application has been allowed to be submitted in the form it has. Clearly the proposal involves far more than the change of use of land yet that is how it is described. This is then perhaps the basis for the concern and mistrust relating to the actual intention of the development and what is really the proposal in the long term. Given the deep suspicion that exists locally on the proposal the Society asks that the LPA considers asking the applicant to firstly withdrawing the

current proposal and if they then want to proceed, submit a full and detailed application.

5. A detailed application should also be accompanied by the various specialist reports assuming the impact of the proposal which are clearly missing from this proposal.

6. On the limited information before it the Society has to object to the proposal. It does so on the basis that:-

1. The rural road system around the site is not suitable for the proposal and the traffic it will generate. If the proposal was to proceed the necessary traffic improvements, management systems and changes to local rural roads would adversely impact on their character and the general character of the countryside in which the area is located;
2. The proposal involves an unnecessary loss of agricultural land thus adversely affecting the ability of the county and country to be self sufficient in terms of food production, a stated objective of the Government;
3. The character of a burial parkland appears to be contrary to the character of the landscape and countryside of the area
4. There will be a reduction in the rural tranquillity of the area as noise and light pollution will be increased to some degree.
5. Buildings and structures on the site, necessary and essential for the use to operate if approved, will impact on the countryside.
6. There is no overriding case for the proposal, which is contrary to PPS7, in this location at this time.
7. The proposal does not accord with the Development Plan. On this ground alone it should be refused.

7. The Society asks to be kept informed on the processing of the application and specifically to be consulted on any and all amendments. It also asks to be informed of the eventual decision on the application.

Yours sincerely

Richard Ward DipTP MRTPI
Director

Cc Mr D Chapman
Cc Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council
Cc Playford Parish Council
Cc Media consultants