Neighbour comments – 5th January 2018

S/3566/17/FL - Land East of Fowlmere Road, Foxton

4 Illingworth Way
Foxton
CB22 6RY

Comments

The amendment to the application refers to construction of a wetlands area for the purpose of surface water drainage but Beacon Planning Ltd.’s email letter dated 11th December, 2017 raises several other points of issue. Using their headings, these are:

1. Change to Description and Site Area.
Paragraph 3 confirms that the proposed site area will increase by some 50% Such amendment is hardly insignificant but they point out that the floorspace of the proposed buildings reamins unchanged. Surely the increased size of the proposed site implies that there will be a need for more trees to surround it. The drawings show over 170 trees, of undefined type, to hide the various plants on the site and supposedly reduce the noise.

2. Landscaping.
Paragraph 4 states that the development will still be 'in keeping with the rural setting and characteristics of the Chalkland Character Area'. What is there now is open view to farmland in a tranquil setting. Construction of a grain store and related buildings will remove that.
Paragraph 5 acknowledges that the development will be "most apparent" in the earlier years of construction. This could be twenty years or more. Whatever is planted will take decades to reach anywhere near the screening that is proposed.
The buildings will still provide visual damage to open views in what is green belt land.

3. Residents' Comments.
I know of no 'co-ordinated local response'. Residents attend Parish Council meetings if they wish and are free to comment on the proposal if they wish to do so.

4. Impact on Highway Safety...
Paragraph 3 says the relocated grain store 'will not see an increase of movements by these lorries through Foxton'. I don't know of any. It would be interesting to have the facts.

Finally, an application for a much smaller grain store (S/0374/06/F) on this road was refused in 2006 as it was considered a visually prominent and intrusive feature in open landscape. This application should receive similar refusal.