

From: kerry BETHEL
To: GREEN, Damian
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2006 7:43 PM
Subject: Wye

I appreciate your response of 11th Jan.

I am pleased that you are pressing Imperial to be more open about their plans. To date the lack of any detail about the scale of their aspirations coupled with city slicker tactics has done nothing whatsoever to gain the confidence of the residents.

Hugo Peel of the international accountants Ernst & Young in his Press Release of 8th. December quoted a budget of £1 Billion. I am sure a renowned firm of accountants would not have allowed themselves to endorse this figure unless it had been verified to their full satisfaction. This would have involved assessing the probable infrastructure and development costs. The only way of arriving at development costs is to have an approximate idea of the size of the area to be developed. All efforts to obtain this information have drawn the response that they don't know. This means one of two things. Either they do know and are nervous about saying or they don't know which would be extraordinary as they have allowed Ernst & Young to issue a false statement.

Villagers in the sticks we may be but we have analysed the £1 Billion claim and it is very clear this level of expenditure envisages development over an area much larger than Imperials existing brownfield holdings; in other words a massive incursion into a greenfield area long designated as being of Outstanding Natural Beauty. How many other such areas exist in the Borough?

Most would accept, albeit perhaps with reluctance, sensitive redevelopment of the brownfield sites but would vigorously resist any attempt at anything more. Do not be mistaken the vast majority of those currently undecided will be bitterly opposed if Imperial does come clean and disclose plans to develop in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

You mention the advantages to the village as being improved transport links and jobs. The delays at the manually operated level crossing will be substantially reduced when automatic gates are installed 2006/7 leaving the village with perfectly satisfactory links. There are many other uses for the existing college properties which would create as many or more local jobs with or without Imperials continuing presence.

Under what circumstances, if any, could you accept any loss of this greenfield ONB land?

Kerry Bethel