

Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate Development
Hepworth Parish Council Response January 2018

There have been many responses to this proposal raising the following points that we feel need to be seriously considered if this proposal were to proceed. Most of which we would feel would need to be addressed in order to gain our support.

There are two main areas of concern being Education and a further increase in traffic.

Increased Traffic

Traffic calming measures to be considered: -

We feel that a ban on HGV traffic through the village should be imposed, with an access only clause and the advised route for HGV's being the A1066 Ixworth to Thetford road.

Improvements to the existing Bus Stop on the A143. Pull in bus stops on both sides of the A143 incorporated into the roundabout layout.

Footpath upgrades for the safety of pedestrians and in particular school children

- i) From Hepworth to A143 bus stop
- ii) From the council houses to the bus stop at Willow Green, and from Willow Green bus stop to North Common Crossroads.

Education

Although Stanton primary school has the physical space for more pupils, they do not have funds for extra teachers to teach an increase in intake. If class numbers exceed the recommended level in all years, the school will require extra teachers.

Provision for improvements to local facilities

A larger GP practice on the site, set aside for community use, would be essential to relieve the pressure on Stanton, Botesdale and Ixworth surgeries which are overstretched due to the recent closure of the Hopton Surgery.

The siting of a shop, close to the roundabout, which would possible lessen through traffic to Barningham stores and it would benefit Hepworth.

Concerns about the proximity to Stanton woods, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These woods are recorded as among the oldest in the UK. It is a small site but, the development must not have a detrimental effect to this site. What measures would be taken to ensure this?