

26th March 2009

Dear Sir.

Application 090231

NOTE ONLY FILE NUMBER

I am a writer and historian who has known the Stour Valley all my life. I have worked with its artists, John Nash R.A., Sir Cedric Morris, its naturalists and its deaneries. I am Patron of the Woodland Trust and have written many books about East Anglia. I was for some years a member of the Local History Faculty of the University of East Anglia.

My reason for objecting to the above application is primarily that the cultural aspects of it could not be supplied by the Horkesley Park Heritage and Conservation Centre, and that in any case all the things which it promises are already present, and professionally offered to the public.

It is not feasible that there could be a Constable Centre at Little Horkesley. Those wishing to see the work of the great local artist go to Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich and to the V. and A. Flatford Mill Field Studies School not only offers visitors an unrivalled 'access' to the world of Constable, but also to the area's natural history. And where the latter is concerned the Suffolk Wildlife Trust at nearby Arger Fen and the Woodland Trust's wonderful property at Fordham, plus many other nature reserves, all of them professionally organised, make the Applicant's plans for wildlife features etc. absurd.

In order to make the Application viable an enormous amount of traffic would need to pass through the beautiful network of lanes and river roads of the Stour Valley, thus upsetting, for a commercial purpose, their celebrated delights. "Heritage" and "Conservation" have little do with the proposed scheme which is really that of a theme park, restaurant, car park, entertainment centre etc. This is not the place for such a project.

Yours faithfully,

Ronald Blythe

(Ronald Blythe, D.Litt, FRSL) The Dedham Vale Society.

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