

To Whom it May Concern

Members of the Charndon Parish Council, along with our residents, would like to voice our strong objections against the proposed building of a new prison within Grendon Underwood.

Charndon Parish Council is attached to the Edgcott and Grendon Underwood villages and services the residents of Charndon and Calvert (not Calvert Green), the population of which currently sits at around 821 (\*based on a 2019 census estimate). Currently, we are significantly impacted by the building of HS2, East West Rail and the development of several new housing estates nearby. These projects are causing a huge impact not only on the residents, but has destroyed the habitats of wildlife and seen the Calvert Jubilee Nature Reserve being destroyed. We have seen an increase in serious road traffic collisions in the area, with a recent fatality within our parish and one close by, along with a serious collision in recent weeks which has left a member of the public paralysed. This area is NOT built for mass development and as such, is not in any way built for an increase in traffic or population.

Please find below various objections to your proposal.

Firstly, before we even consider a new prison, you cannot ignore the issues currently experienced by HMP Springhill. Residents are exposed to noise and light pollution daily, particular when the prisoners are in the open areas. Not only that, but due to the nature of a Cat D prison, there is a constant stream of prisoners absent without leave, causing a significant amount of stress to local residents and nothing seems to be done to negate these matters.

Now I bring to your attention the issues that a new prison will bring:

#### Pollution

Due to the nature of a prison, particular that of a Category C, security plays a big part of the infrastructure which would include flood lighting. The current lighting installed at Springhill is visible from the roadway. Therefore, the new site, which is to be built at an elevated point, will be visible to all residents, including those within Charndon. The residents of Calvert are already enduring noise AND light pollution from the School Hill HS2 batching plant and compound, as well as the West Hill compound. If this build is to go ahead – what mitigating factors are you taking into consideration?

#### Security

The proposed site for the new prison is located very close to residential properties. With contraband getting into prisons at a record high, what measures will be put in place to ensure perimeter security and stop visitors coming to the area and making attempts to throw/drop items over perimeter walls? The use of drones to do this has increased across the country and therefore is easily achievable, particularly in a new prison where there are always going to be teething problems to start with.

Charndon and surrounding villages currently have a significantly low crime rate, which we strive to keep. The mega prison will start to introduce criminal associates to the area and expose our villages and homes to such persons.

The public transport system around the villages is minimal and there is limited access to leaving the area utilising public transport. Residents are concerned about the behaviour of prisoners who are released, pretty much thrown out into the world and have to find their own way home. Will we see a flurry of tracksuit clad offenders walking around our streets, targeting residents and properties?

### Development

The build itself will be too impactful for the area. Roads are crumbling already, proving they are not suitable to support HGVs and alike. Residents are suffering with the constant flow of heavy vehicles passing through, numerous road closures and diversions. You will find yourself having constant challenges by parishes, requesting speed checks, speed awareness, road repairs and community engagement, all of which will be of a significant cost to yourselves. Currently, Fusion and Kier developments provide residents with printed copies of all works as part of an agreed plan to engage the community and keep them updated. Is this something that you will be able to fund and keep up with?

### Traffic

I invite you to take a look at the Buckinghamshire Council website and all of the current, ongoing and proposed road closures in the locality, which is where you will see the current situation and how bad it is. We have residents waking up not knowing how they will get to work as they are pinned in by road closures. Our only saving grace are the roads that lead out of the village towards the A41, which is the main access road in and out of the village, providing quick access to local surgeries and hospitals. Your proposed plan will cause grid lock on our roads, particularly being so close to the A41.

The roads are far busier than ever and there has been a huge rise in both damage and non-damage collisions. Within the last three months I am aware of two fatalities, a serious collision which has left someone paralysed and numerous reports of damage caused to cars within a two mile radius of Calvert. In the initial stages of your plan, the construction phase, you bring with it a fleet of vehicles, many of which will most likely be from independent companies or self-employed drivers. What we have found is that these drivers do not respect the communities they drive through, swearing at residents who challenge them to slow down or committing traffic offences. Then when the prison is complete, there will be a massive influx of cars on the road, with staff, visitors and civilians accessing your site. This is not acceptable. We should be putting measures in place to save lives and reduce our carbon footprint.

### Overview

You have heard so many objections to the proposed plan that it should be clear the prison is not welcome or supported. As a human being, please remove yourself from

the situation and see it for how it is for us – what have we done to deserve this? First HS2, then EWR and now this.

The area is not ready for such a development. There are so many more suitable locations for a prison, certainly towns that can cope with such a build. The residents of Charndon, Edgcott, Grendon and Brill chose to move to a rural area as it is just that – rural! Please do not be the next government funded project to ruin our homes and lives.

We look forward to your response,

Charndon Parish Council