FORMAL OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED USE OF THE MOD SITE AT PIDDINGTON FOR ACCOMMODATION

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to **formally object** to the proposal to use the MOD site at Piddington to accommodate 1,256 unsettled sojourners.

My objection is not based on the nationality, ethnicity or immigration status of the individuals who may ultimately be accommodated at the site. It only concerns the **immense scale** of the proposed accommodation **in relation to the existing size**, infrastructure, facilities and capacity of Piddington and the surrounding rural communities.

1. DISPROPORTIONATE SCALE

Piddington is a very small rural community with approximately 315 RESIDENTS. The proposed addition of 1,256 people would therefore represent **an increase equivalent to almost four times** the existing population.

This is not a modest increase in population. It **represents a fundamental change** to the scale and character of the settlement and surrounding area.

It is therefore **essential** that the suitability of the proposal **should be considered in terms of its proportionality and impact upon the existing community** and local infrastructure, rather than simply whether the physical MOD buildings are capable of containing the proposed number of people.

2. LACK OF LOCAL FACILITIES

Piddington does not have any facilities that would ordinarily be expected to support a population of this size.

There is no village shop, no public house or comparable local facility providing unsettled sojourners with everyday access to basic goods and services.

Consequently, a substantial number of the unsettled sojourners would inevitably need to travel outside Piddington for necessities, healthcare, shopping, recreation and other services.

This raises significant questions regarding:

* The availability and capacity of public transport.

* Traffic generation.

* Pedestrian safety.

* Access to healthcare.

* Pressure upon neighbouring communities and their facilities.

* Access to shops and essential services.

* The capacity of local public services; and

* The ability of the surrounding area to accommodate such a substantial additional population.

The proposal should therefore not be assessed solely based on the site itself. Its impact upon neighbouring villages and the **wider local area must also be properly considered**.

3. ABSENCE OF PAVEMENTS AND PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE

One of the most significant concerns is the lack of adequate pedestrian infrastructure within the village and surrounding roads.

Piddington is a rural settlement and does not have a comprehensive network of pavements capable of accommodating large numbers of pedestrians.

If 1,256 unsettled sojourners are placed at the site, alongside the existing residents, there will inevitably be substantially more pedestrian movement between the site, public transport, neighbouring settlements and local facilities.

This creates legitimate concerns regarding highway and pedestrian safety, particularly where people are required to walk alongside rural roads without pavements.

A detailed and independent assessment should therefore establish:

* Anticipated pedestrian movements.

* The routes likely to be used.

* The adequacy of existing footways.

* Road crossing requirements.

* Traffic speeds.

* Visibility.

* Accident risks.

* Public transport access; and

* Whether additional pedestrian infrastructure is required.

4. Inadequate street lighting

There is a further concern regarding street lighting, particularly where lighting has been identified to be switched off overnight by the Local Authority.

The combination of a large additional population, rural roads, limited pedestrian infrastructure and inadequate overnight lighting creates **a legitimate road and pedestrian safety concern.**

It would be unreasonable to expect significant numbers of people to walk through an unlit rural environment without first establishing that the routes are safe and suitable.

The relevant authorities should therefore provide evidence of a specific night-time pedestrian and highway safety assessment undertaken considering the proposed accommodation.

5. **PRESSURE UPON HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC SERVICES**

An additional population of 1,256 people would inevitably create **additional demand** for local services.

Questions must therefore be answered regarding the capacity of:

* GP surgeries.

* Dentists.

* Pharmacies.

* Hospitals.

* Ambulance services.

* Mental health and welfare services.

* Police.

* Fire and rescue services; and

* Other relevant public services.

It should not simply be assumed that existing services have sufficient capacity.

The proposal should be accompanied by clear evidence that the relevant service **providers have been consulted and that the additional demand has been assessed** and appropriately resourced.

6. EMERGENCY SERVICES AND ACCESS

The rural nature of Piddington also raises concerns about emergency access.

The authorities should demonstrate that the increased population can be adequately served by emergency services and that there are appropriate arrangements for:

* Emergency vehicle access.

* Evacuation.

* Fire safety.

* Medical emergencies.

* Policing.

* Safeguarding; and

* Emergency communications.

The potential increase in **demand should be assessed against the existing capacity** of the relevant services rather than considered in isolation.

7. **IMPACT ON NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES**

Because Piddington has very limited local facilities, many of the proposed unsettled sojourners will necessarily use facilities in neighbouring communities.

The proposal **WILL** place additional pressure on nearby:

* Shops.

* Supermarkets.

* GP surgeries.

* Dentists.

* Pharmacies.

* Bus services.

* Railway stations.

* Roads.

* Public spaces; and

* Emergency services.

It is therefore important that an assessment **considers the cumulative impact** across the wider area, rather than restricting consideration to the physical boundary of the MOD site.

8. **COMMUNITY COHESION AND THE CHARACTER OF THE VILLAGE**

The introduction of a population almost four times the size of the existing community **cannot reasonably be regarded as having no effect** upon the character and functioning of the village.

Piddington has developed as a small rural community. Introducing a population of 1,256 people **would fundamentally alter the demographic** and physical scale of the settlement.

This does not mean that the existing community is unwilling to welcome newcomers. Rather, it recognises that successful integration and community cohesion require appropriate scale, facilities, transport, services and resources.

A proposal of this magnitude requires a clear plan demonstrating how community cohesion will be supported and how both existing residents and new unsettled sojourners will be able to access appropriate services and facilities.

9. **SUITABILITY OF THE SITE**

The fundamental question should be whether this is an appropriate location for accommodation on this scale.

The fact that the MOD site may contain buildings capable of being converted into accommodation **does not demonstrate** that the location is suitable for 1,256 unsettled sojourners.

The suitability assessment should consider the whole environment in which the residents will live, including transport, healthcare, pedestrian infrastructure, lighting, shops, emergency services, recreation, access to support services and the impact upon surrounding communities.

Piddington and the surrounding villages are still antiquated in their infrastructure. Overhead electricity lines, with regular power cuts. 80-100 year old sewage networks. You state that diesel generators will be utilised. (Gov.UK) ‘Deisel particulates cause an estimated 29,000 early deaths in the UK, and has annual health costs of roughly £15 billion.’ ‘Whilst Diesel particulate matter (DPM) and associated diesel exhaust emissions pose significant, multifaceted dangers to UK wildlife and natural ecosystems.’ The environmental impact of this energy supply should be carried out, with the risks properly assessed to the ecological environment and the residents of the surrounding villages.

A site which is physically capable of accommodating people is not necessarily a site which is socially, environmentally or infrastructurally suitable for accommodating them at this scale.

10. REQUEST FOR FULL EVIDENCE AND ASSESSMENTS

Before any decision is made, I would ask that the relevant authorities publish or make available the evidence and assessments underpinning the decision to identify Piddington as a suitable location.

I request evidence addressing:

1. Highway and traffic impact.

2. Pedestrian and road safety.

3. Night-time pedestrian safety.

4. Public transport capacity.

5. Healthcare capacity.

6. Police and emergency service capacity.

7. Fire safety and emergency evacuation.

8. Safeguarding.

9. Waste and refuse management.

10. Water, sewage and other utilities.

11. **Environmental impact –** To include timely, onsite studies of protected and endangered species. **To also include** the environmental impact of the proposed diesel generators and diesel supply trucks to the residents of the surrounding communities and the wildlife.

12. Community cohesion.

13. Impact upon neighbouring settlements.

14. The cumulative impact of the proposed population increase; and

15. Why a site accommodating 1,256 people has been considered proportionate and appropriate for a community of approximately 315 existing residents, of which, by your own admission, are **71% more deprived** than average.

CONCLUSION

I respectfully request that the proposal is reconsidered and refused, or that an alternative and more proportionate location is identified.

The issue is not whether migrants should receive appropriate accommodation. They should.

The issue is whether it is reasonable or sustainable to place 1,256 additional people in a small rural community of approximately 315 residents which has no shop, no public house, limited local facilities, inadequate pedestrian infrastructure and limited overnight street lighting.

Such a substantial population increase requires substantially more than suitable buildings. It requires appropriate infrastructure, transport, healthcare, emergency provision, pedestrian

safety measures, public services and a realistic strategy for supporting both the existing community and those being accommodated.

In the absence of compelling evidence demonstrating that these matters have been properly assessed and adequately addressed, I believe there are serious grounds to conclude that the proposed site is unsuitable for accommodation on the scale proposed.

I therefore respectfully ask that this objection is formally recorded and fully considered before any decision is made.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

[redacted]

7th September 2026