Application Reference: PCU/RARE/C3105/3378843
Date: 13 September 2026

Dear Piddington Parish Council,

RE: Site A, MOD Bicester – Formal Objection

I am writing to **object** to the proposed development at Site A, MOD Bicester for the accommodation of up to 1,256 single adult men.

I am a mother of three young children [redacted].

Highways and pedestrian safety

My primary concern is of course the safety of my young family. Specifically road safety on Widnell Lane, [redacted] The Transport Assessment contains no traffic count, no collision search and no safety assessment whatsoever for Widnell Lane itself. This is extraordinary given that this is the direct route to Piddington [redacted]

I have personally witnessed how narrow and fast this road is. Where there is a footway at all, it is roughly one metre wide, yet the Department for Transport's own inclusive design guidance recommends a minimum of two metres. The 85th percentile speeds on the approach roads are around 53–54 mph. When I am driving my children, I regularly see pedestrians (including children and dog walkers) pressed against the verge as vehicles pass at speed, and I worry constantly about what would happen if one of my children were walking or cycling along this stretch.

The recorded road safety incident near Blackthorn in 2024, in which a young child died, is a matter of public record. As a parent [redacted] this tragedy underlines why getting this assessment right is not just a planning formality – it is a matter of life and death.

A development of this scale will generate significant additional traffic from coaches, minibuses, delivery vehicles, staff cars and service vehicles. Yet the junction capacity modelling that concludes there is "plenty of spare capacity" carries the software's own warnings that heavy vehicle traffic was set to zero in three of the four modelled scenarios. That does not reflect the reality of what this site will generate, and it does not reflect the reality of the road I drive my children along every day.

Local services and school capacity

[redacted]
No site-specific capacity assessment appears to have been agreed with the relevant

local education authority or with the NHS, police, fire or ambulance services. Given that this proposal would bring 1,256 people – more than four times the entire recorded population of Piddington – into our immediate area, I find it impossible to believe that our local services, such as the Brill GP surgery and emergency services can simply absorb this demand without any formal assessment or planning.

The rushed process

I am also deeply concerned about the process being used. There is no statutory requirement for public consultation under this fast-track procedure, no guaranteed minimum period for representations, and no requirement to notify neighbouring residents directly. If the Parish Council had not chosen to run its own consultation, families like mine would have had no formal opportunity to raise these concerns at all.

The Home Office's own factsheet states a minimum operational life of ten years for the site, and its own Statement of National Importance says that, over time, the site is intended to be expanded for use as a long-term asylum accommodation solution. That is difficult to square with a case built on urgency, and it suggests that the scale being planned for may be considerably larger than what is being presented to us now.

What I am asking for

I ask that the Parish Council robustly oppose this application and ensure that my concerns, and those of other families in our community, are fully represented in its submission to the decision-maker. Specifically, I ask that:

- No decision be made until a proper, site-specific safety assessment of Widnell Lane has been carried out and published.
- No decision be made until formal capacity assessments have been agreed with the local school, NHS, police, fire and ambulance services.
- The decision-maker be asked to clarify why a site-specific highways assessment for the route used by families every day has been omitted from the Transport Assessment.

I am copying this response directly to the Planning Inspectorate and to Cherwell District Council to ensure it is also treated as a formal representation.

Please acknowledge receipt of this objection and keep me informed of all further developments.

Yours faithfully,

Joanna Cumming-Bruce

[redacted]