From: [redacted]
To: Crown Casework
Subject: Planning Application - 26/01833/CROWN
Date: 15 September 2026 18:10:07
Attachments: MODULAR UNITS.png
Screenshot 2026-09-15 at 13.19.11.png

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I write to object to the application.

Here is my analysis of the proposed asylum seeker accommodation at Piddington, having looked in detail at the application documents.

The plan is to house 1256 single male adult asylum seekers, with 130 staff members (22 night staff - which is one staff member per 58 asylum seekers overnight). There are 3 phases proposed, phase 1 for 408 asylum seekers, Phase 2 for 216 & Phase 3 for 632. There is no confirmed timetable. The masterplan for the site is blanked out. The "Written statement Bicester HO" sets out most details. Each resident will be there for a maximum of **90 days**.

This would be a 'non-detained' site so residents could freely leave. The village is on the edge of the '2km walking catchment' of the site (from Travel Plan).

They plan to use a total of 984 modular units (each 2.4m x 6m) and stacked to two storeys high. The first phase is in the north part of the site. I've done a rough guide to how this part of the site might be laid out, so people can understand the scale of the proposal. It's basically a lot of little boxes stacked together (like Portacabins).

No date has been set for the Committee meeting but consultations with the public close on 17th September. Please confirm when this will take place. Documents;

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/urgent-crown-development-application-mod-bicester-site-a

https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/26/01833/CROWN#undefined

The urgency is described in the Statement of National Importance; "Planning permission is required by late summer to allow works to begin to maintain the programme critical path. Current programme assumptions are to submit the Urgent Crown application by July, secure Urgent Crown approval by late August 2026 to enable required works to be completed." However it was not lodged until Sept 2nd.

I DEPLORE some of the objectors proposals to camp nearby & block access to the site, and think everyone needs FACTS not rumour. The above information has been gleaned from several of the submitted documents.

In terms of background info, I spend a lot of my free time scrutinising planning applications, partly because I'm nosey, but mostly because people have such a poor understanding of the planning process that I like to explain how it works. However I'm not familiar with the 'Urgent Crown Approval' process so it's not clear how objections will be taken into account. Unlike regular applications the objections are not posted online but need to be sent by email to Crowncasework@communities.gov.uk - they need to raise material planning objections.

My thoughts on the subject;

I can't see a huge problem with Phase 1. It's fairly remote from the actual village. A range of facilities are proposed including recreation, gym, shop, worship & health facilities. It is intended to be self-contained though residents are free to leave the site if they wish. Looking in detail, each 2.5 x 6m module could probably house 4 single beds & not much else. So the layout attached is a guess at the density of development of the north part of the site. It could be a pleasant place to spend time if it's well thought out and the layout includes useable external spaces and a wide range of things to do.

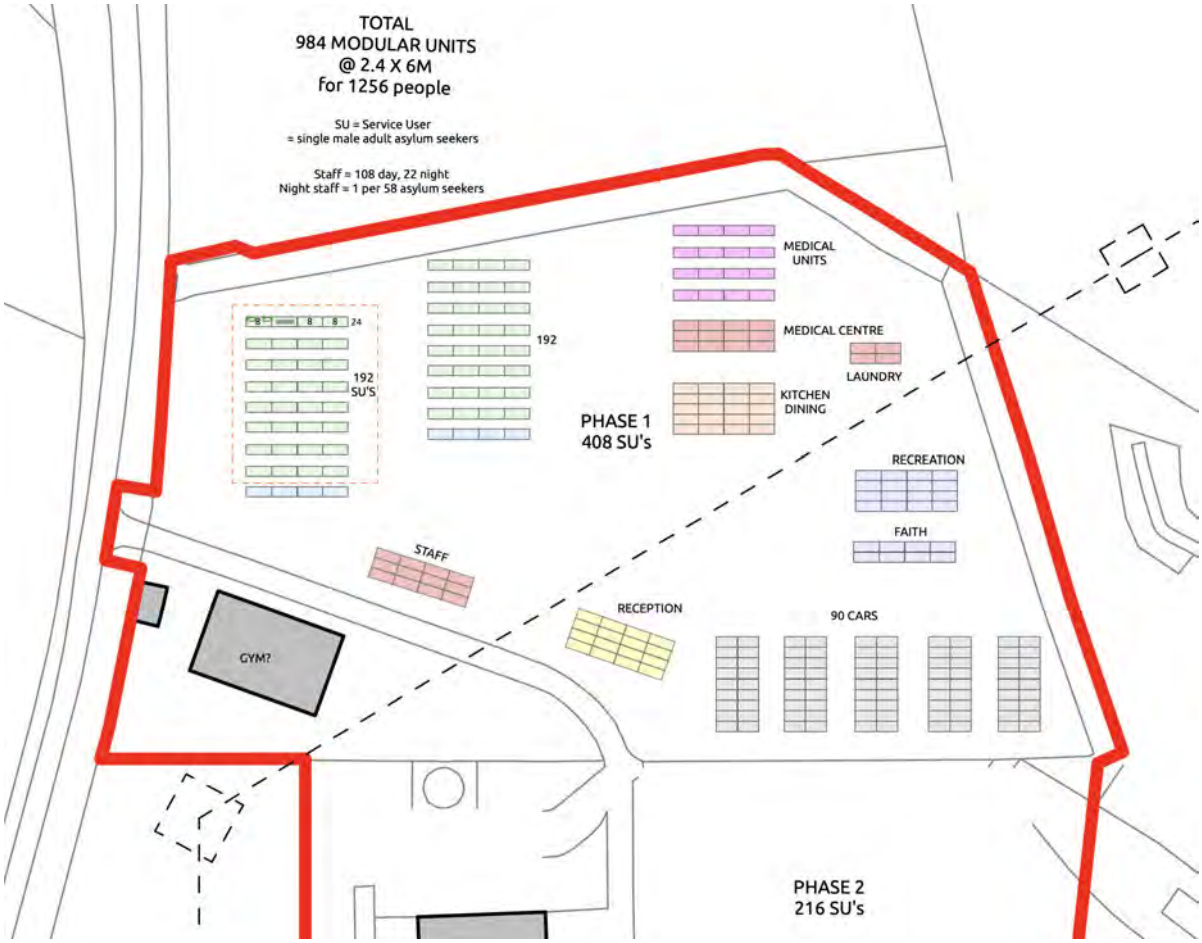
Men will stay for a maximum of 90 days, so this means the average stay should be considerably lower than this. Once 'processed' and approved as asylum seekers they will be moved on to more permanent housing. If not approved this will be secure accommodation ready for removal/deportation. So the 'churn' on site will be very high. If they only stay for 70 days or so then it won't be a very 'settled' place at all. The men are not allowed to work. This is crazy, they could be employed maintaining the site, tree planting, growing veg, making things. This is all possible on the site itself. Otherwise what? They will be very very bored! Then what? Wandering around the country lanes looking for something to do?

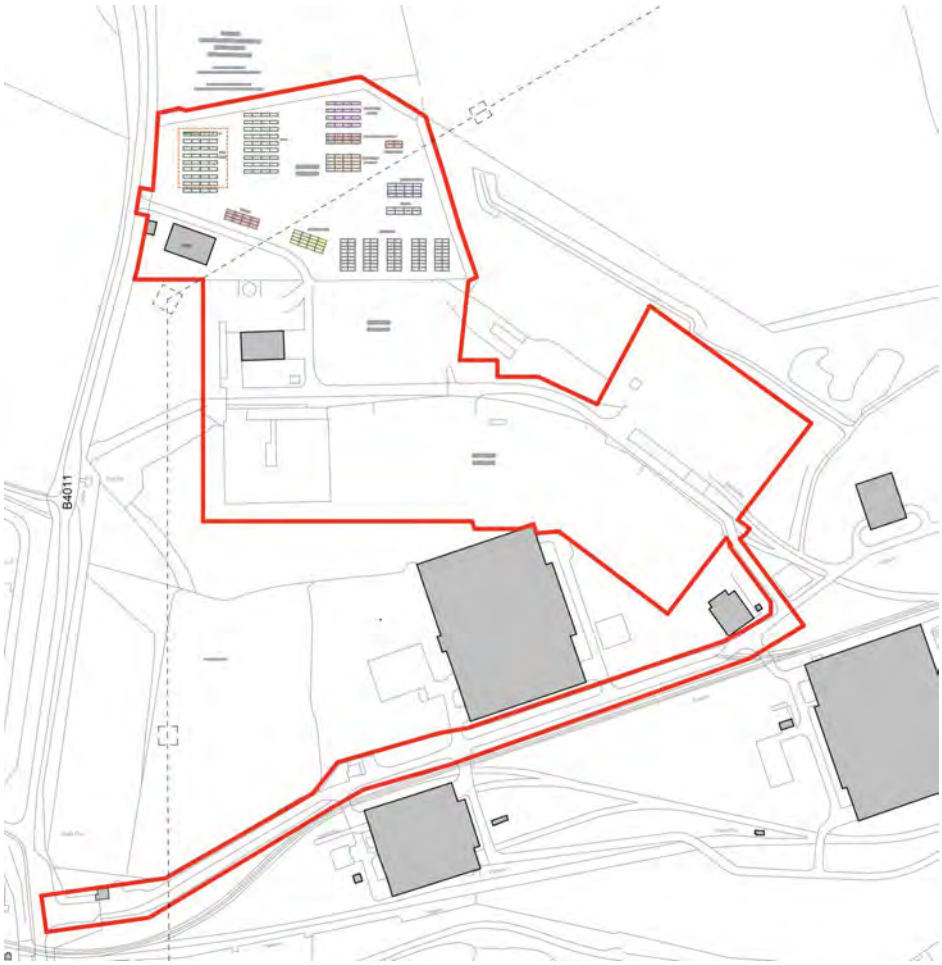
Phase 2 is smallish, Phase 3 is huge. A total of 1256 men 'in transit', being processed, hanging around getting bored. If the churn is, say, average 80 days in the camp, then a total of 4.5x 1256 men will be processed every year, thats over 5,600 different men per year. Overnight there will be a mere 22 night staff to deal with anything that happens. This is not a good idea at all. It's a very very bad idea!

What's the solution? Make it entirely secure and give them work to do? Use more staff! Reduce the total number of bedspaces. Above all else, police the situation hard & don't give the radical right wing gangs anything to campaign against. Kettle any protestors & get them away from the site asap. Drop phase 3 completely. Those are my thoughts.

Attached - guide to accommodation proposed in Phase 1. Estimated by me from the documents, which do not include a masterplan (redacted). This is intended just as a guide to the scale, for those who would not otherwise understand.

[redacted]


TOTAL
984 MODULAR UNITS
@ 2.4 X 6M
for 1256 people
SU = Service User
= single male adult asylum seekers
Staff = 108 day, 22 night
Night staff = 1 per 58 asylum seekers
MEDICAL UNITS
MEDICAL CENTRE
LAUNDRY
KITCHEN DINING
RECREATION
FAITH
192
192 SU'S
PHASE 1
408 SU's
STAFF
RECEPTION
90 CARS
GYM?
PHASE 2
216 SU's


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