ARNCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION 26 / 01833 / CROWN

M.O.D. BICESTER SITE "A" – NON DETAINED ASYLUM ACCOMODATION

15th SEPTEMBER 2026

Arncott Parish Council objects in the strongest possible terms to this current U.K. Government application to create an asylum accommodation centre for 1250+ single adult males on the land area known as M.O.D. Bicester "A" site.

The previous proposal in 2002 to create an asylum accommodation centre on the site was refused permission by both the Cherwell District Council and the planning inspectorate. The site was deemed to be inappropriate at that time and it is still inappropriate today. The reasons given for refusal at that time are still valid reasons for refusal today.

There is a tremendous amount of justified frustration and anger from people towards the totally abhorrent and undemocratic method that is being used by the U.K. Government to bypass the normal planning process and force through the implementation of its proposed plan to create this asylum accommodation centre with as short a time for consultation responses as possible. It's obvious to everyone that the present government has used an Urgent Crown Development application (derived from 2025 regulations) for this site because it knows full well that this application would be refused yet again by the Cherwell District Council and the planning inspectorate if the application was subjected to the normal planning process.

It's extremely disappointing that the Government officials who are responsible for this plan do not care about and have absolutely no regard to the consequences of what the opening of such an asylum centre at this location will have on the lives of the people who will be living locally to the site. It's obvious that the Government considers this to be totally irrelevant and is concerned only with political point scoring.

Overwhelming numbers of objections have been raised against the creation of this proposed asylum centre. Those objections are very legitimate, sound and valid and have been made available to the public and submitted to the U.K. Government by local authorities, agencies, health and welfare bodies, public groups and individual residents. All have expressed their concerns with regard to the effects that an asylum centre would have on the local area, the local ecology, the environment, public services, utilities, local villages and their residents and also the residents of the asylum centre. All have said and / or have written as to why this is the wrong site for an asylum accommodation centre. Despite all of the advice and reasoning put forward, the Government has chosen to stay blinkered and ignore all of that reasoning and advice in pursuit of the fulfilment of its very flawed plan.

Arncott Parish Council thoroughly endorses every one of those objections and agrees with the reasoning and arguments that those objections put forward. Arncott Parish Council therefore considers that there is no need to repeat the same reasoning, arguments and objections here.

However, Arncott Parish Council does wish to strongly convey to the Government the very real fears and concerns that the Arncott village residents have expressed to the parish councillors about their future safety should the asylum accommodation centre become a reality.

The number of 1250 + single adult males proposed to be housed on the site would be close to, if not more than, the total population of Arncott village. The nationality, personal history and backgrounds of the asylum seekers would unlikely be known. It is a recognised fact that the residents in asylum accommodation experience difficulties due to overcrowding, boredom and inadequate living conditions and they also suffer from high levels of mental distress. What will hundreds of unemployed men do with their time? It is likely that many of them will want to leave the site and gravitate towards Bicester town or the nearby villages - of which Arncott is one – to try and find something to do.

Arncott is one of several small local villages located in a rural countryside area very close to the site. Many of the female residents from the local villages currently walk on their own or with their dog(s) and children along the small roads, footpaths and across the fields that surround the area. All of those same women have told parish councillors that if the asylum accommodation centre opens, they would no longer do those walks. They have said that they would not feel safe doing so knowing that there are hundreds of sexually active adult males from unknown origins and backgrounds – none of whom would have a female partner / companion - housed close to the village and free to wander around the area as and when they please. They have said that they would be fearful about the possibility of being molested and / or attacked by one

or more residents from the asylum accommodation centre. It seems that this government does not want to understand and / or accept the genuine concerns and fears that these residents have about their safety but, of course, the asylum centre would not be anywhere close to where the government's MP's live so it wouldn't be a problem for them and in doing so the proposals fail to comply with current Health and Safety legislation.

Those concerns and fears can be considered as fully justified as there have been many instances of male asylum seekers being given custodial sentences for carrying out sexual assaults in the U.K. on young girls and women. It is more than very concerning when it is deemed necessary to issue asylum seekers with a booklet explaining to them, amongst other things, that the sexual harassment and rape of anyone in the U.K. is illegal. It's also a concern that they must also be told that women have the same rights as men and are allowed to earn their own money and make decisions about their own lives.

Given the large number – or density - of male asylum seekers that would be living near to Arncott and the local surrounding villages, it could be argued that the odds of such an offence taking place in and around the local area would be higher than if those same asylum seekers were more widely dispersed.

Arncott Parish Council requests that a poll is carried out in Parliament that asks all of the female MP's if they would feel safe walking on their own through the countryside or their own local area knowing full well that there are 1250+ sexually active males living within one mile or less of where they would walk. The prediction for the result of the poll is that all, or the large majority, of those female MP's would be fearful of doing such a walk and would say "No – that is not something I would feel comfortable in doing".

Should the asylum accommodation centre become a reality, both male and female village residents have expressed their fears to parish councillors of walking alone through the village – especially when it is dark. They are fearful of being confronted by groups of men who have walked from the asylum centre and into the village. Many instances of anti – social behaviour towards residents and property involving groups of asylum seekers have been recorded and reported in the towns of Wethersfield and Crowborough. Both of those towns now have uniformed security patrols set up by the residents of those towns to try and counter that problem. Trying to do the same thing in small rural villages will small populations will be a very difficult thing to do – if at all possible.

Arncott villagers have also expressed their concerns about a possible increase in the rate of local crime. Data shown from online research indicates that an increase in property crime, theft and burglary can be linked to an increase in the number of asylum seekers in a local area and is primarily due to the financial and social pressures that the asylum seekers are under due mainly to a lack of work rights and the time taken for the legal process to decide if they can stay in the U.K. or if they are to be deported.

Should the proposed asylum centre proceed the Parish Council would expect the government to provide Thames Valley Police to finance an increase in the local policing in the area to ensure that police presence is always available. Furthermore, the Parish would expect funding to provide a full, comprehensive CCTV system around the Village and look at other initiatives to support residents live their normal daily lives and protect residents and their property ?

Since the announcement of the plan to create the asylum centre, local property prices around the area have decreased. This will probably not give the government any concerns whatsoever as this would be something else that the government would consider to be irrelevant. However, to several of our village residents this has been catastrophic. Residents who were in the process of selling their house to move to a new location have seen the house sale fall through as the potential buyer(s) decided not proceed with the purchase because they did not want to live near to the asylum centre. Other residents have found themselves with a negative equity as their houses are now worth less than what they bought them for so they are somewhat trapped to where they now live and would find it very difficult, if not impossible, to finance a move to another area – assuming of course that they could find a buyer for their houses.

The Parish Council expects the government have to introduce some a compensation/purchase scheme to support residents who wish/need to relocate The government is solely responsible for creating this horrid situation for our villagers so it is right that the government should offer help to alleviate the problem.

Arncott Parish Council

15th September 2026