

## Comments on P/22/1539/2 from 7 farmers who farm the land on either side of Old Gate Road, Thrussington

As farmers who need to travel up and down Old Gate Road daily with large and heavy equipment, we are not confident that you are taking into account our needs in these difficult times for farmers to be able to successfully run our businesses profitably and should be aware of our point of view on this planning application.

We gather that the Leicestershire Highways Authority has recently produced a report for Charnwood planners following an on-site visit to Old Gate Road on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024. This report recognises that the road is considerably narrower than the original information supplied, making it totally unsuitable for a further 60 houses along with an estimated increase of at least 100 cars + service vehicles.

As farmers we have both arable and livestock fields lining both sides of Old Gate Road for approximately 1.5 miles from the village end of the Old Gate Road, our tractors with or without trailers are in daily use by one farmer or another delivering or collecting livestock, winter feed and spreading fertiliser and of course harvest time. Also, due to the more regular flooding in the village, and during the winter months, we have to move the cattle inside which means filling tankers with all the slurry which is then sprayed onto the fields around the village including Old Gate Road, this job alone takes about 2 to 3 days to complete and is repeated every few weeks.

With there being less than a dozen houses on OGR, we do currently manage to travel up and down the road with relatively few major inconveniences. However, due the number of houses in the village with no off road parking more cars are parking at the junction at the bottom of OGR or nearby which can be very dangerous and the number of occasions when we are seriously delayed by the road being at least partially blocked is starting to build up. On a few occasions our tractors have needed to park overnight waiting for obstructing vehicles to be moved.

As you can see on the first picture below, the width of the road above the proposed development is barely wider than our tractors, so any oncoming vehicles need to leave the road or reverse up to a gateway to allow us to proceed, but we're concerned that increased traffic travelling down from the A46 will cause these manoeuvres to be required more frequently.



Towards the bottom end of the road (as shown on the other picture), where we would expect most of the traffic generated by the new development to be active, there is still nowhere that we can safely pass other vehicles on the road, and again, as happens currently one or other of the vehicles will need to mount the grass verge to get by.

If there are 60 houses introduced between these two points we would expect far more occasions when our vehicles would be held up by the cars and service vehicles that would be necessary to support the residents of the new houses. We have businesses to run and obstructions like this to our daily work will cost us aggravation and money, so we would like to object most strongly to this planning application, given that it is in a most unsuitable location in this very rural village.



These two photos help to show the just how narrow the OGR is.

**List of farmers who farm the fields on Old Gate Road with names and addresses**

Peter Holmes, Manor Farm, Thrussington

..... *P Holmes*

Andrew Mills, Elms farm, Cossington

..... *A Mills*

Peter Astill, Quebec Farm, Seagrave

..... *P Astill*

Jack Bishop, Laudadale Farm, Old Gate Road

..... *\* J Bishop*

Graham Reaves, Grange Farm, Old Gate Road

..... *G Reaves*

Tim Jelley, Cheney Farm, Old Gate Road

..... *T Jelley*

John Rudkin, Reasby Road, Thrussington

..... *E Rudkin*

EMMA RUDKIN- WIFE

Photos taken at the junction at the bottom of Old Gate Road by one of the farmers whilst attempting to get to his fields, he couldn't go forward or backwards due to the vehicles that were now queueing behind him.

