

PLANNING REF : 250959
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 22 East Park Farm Drive
: Charvil
: RG10 9UL
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Gisela Bradbury
DATE SUBMITTED : 06/06/2025

COMMENTS:

I have serious concerns regarding the application by Speedy Fuels to use the former Prince Brothers site as a fuel depot and distribution hub on the following grounds:

The road between Charvil and Twyford is a country road with bends and a narrow pavement running down one side. There is no safe provision for cyclists and the pavement does not allow two pedestrians to pass each other without one party stepping into the road, especially if one party has a pushchair or is walking a dog. Instead of encouraging cycling and walking, this facility will have the opposite effect and discourage active travel.

To the west of the small industrial estate a footpath from Charvil Country Park ends at the Old Bath Road. There is no pavement in this side of the road, so walkers need to cross the road to continue, not an easy undertaking due to poor visibility.

The site lies close to a number of sensitive areas which are important in terms of wildlife and biodiversity, namely the River Loddon, the Loddon Nature Reserve, Charvil Country Park and Charvil Meadows. The danger to the environment from any fuel spill, however small, cannot be calculated - any contamination of the River Loddon would invariably have consequences on the River Thames.

Apart from the dangers of too much rainfall and fuel spillage, there is also the danger of fire due to climate change and the continuing lack of rainfall. With fire stations in Wargrave and Sonning having been closed in recent years, the nearest stations are Earley and Caversham, both of which would not be a quick response, with any fire therefore posing a danger to the country parks and their wildlife.

This business is the wrong business for the location and the planning application should be refused.