

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Planning Committee

13 January 2010

AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Operational Services) / Corporate Manager – Planning and Sustainable Communities

S/1356/09/F- MELBOURN

**Change of Use from B1 (C) (Light Industrial to Ambulance Station At Plasmon Data Systems UK Ltd Headquarters, Whiting Way, for the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Recommendation: Approval**

Date for Determination: 15th January 2010

A. Update to the report

1. Paragraph 14 should be omitted. The comments are relevant only to the application S/1071/09/F that was determined at December Planning Committee 2009. They are not to be read as a representation for this application and Councillor van de Ven will be present at January Planning Committee 2010 to make her views clear in person.

B. Further Information received after publication of the agenda report.

2. Further comments have been received from the Environmental Protection Leader:

“Having studied the application, it is difficult to raise any objection from the environmental health stand point baring in mind the existing use of the site being classed as B1/B8. To expect total inaudibility from any business usage would in my professional opinion be unreasonable. My initial concerns on hearing of the application had been the noise from sirens, but I am satisfied with the proposals that any deployed ambulances will not use sirens until they reach the A10. I believe the proposed roller door is located far enough away from the residential properties and is also obscured by the existing design of the building from the nearest properties, those being on Back Lane.

It is not possible to say how many vehicle movements will take place given the nature of the proposed usage, but I am mindful that these are not heavy goods vehicles, which could potentially be used on site if a different operation were to be granted planning permission. In conclusion, I do not have any adverse comments to raise on the information submitted”.

3. Further comments have been received from the Melbourn Parish Council. It states that:

“Since the application has been made several issues arise that have emphasised the problems of access, public health and safety in the area. In conjunction with the recently approved application under reference S/1071/09/F the effect of traffic usage along Back Lane and the safety of pedestrian and cycle users has become a grave concern to residents in this vicinity and hence the Parish Council. The approval of this scheme will add

further traffic use (at all hours and 7 days per week) of the same BOAT in the form of rapid response vehicles and ambulances. The Council think this is an unacceptable addition to the already existing dangers to pedestrian traffic using Back Lane as a route to school and village amenities.

Had the Parish Council been aware that Back Lane is a BOAT this should have been taken into consideration in this application. It feels that the permissions being sought by the two applications will create increased danger and unacceptable to residents and users of Back Lane in their legitimate journeys to facilitate in the village.

It feels that these issues must be addressed before the applications are further considered for approval and would ask to be allowed to attend and speak at the meeting 13th January 2010 on behalf of the residents affected by these applications”.

4. The application has also received interest from the local press and an article appeared in The Cambridge News and Royston Weekly News 28th December 2009. Councillor Barrett and Councillor Guest were asked to air their views on this application; both of who declined to comment in light of their duties as Planning Committee Members and the forthcoming meeting.

Additional Background Papers: the following background papers (additional to those referred to in the agenda report) were used in the preparation of this update:

- Cambridge News/Royston Weekly News 28th December 2009

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