

FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL

DERELICT MOD FUEL DEPOT, STATION ROAD.

The MOD have given notice that they will be submitting a Hazardous Substances application to North Somerset Council to construct a new fuel depot in Station Road. There is no existing fuel storage at the site

The Parish Council has a number of concerns and, if you share these, you may like to write to NSC along the following lines (but in your own words!) – **by the 9th August**. Letters should be addressed to The Director, Development and Environment, North Somerset Council, Somerset House, Oxford Street, Weston-super-Mare. BS23 1TG

The residual risk to people in the community of Flax Bourton and environmental risk are unacceptable because

- The site is within 300/400 metres of the local Primary School and the village of Flax Bourton – remember Buncefield!
- The site adjoins the main Bristol / Exeter railway line
- A (Sustrans) cycle track runs along side this railway line
- The site also adjoins the River Land Yeo where there are otters and plans show drainage lines of “product” from the depot into the River!
- The application is being submitted by the Oil and Pipelines Agency on behalf of the MOD. The OPA are a commercial organisation and it could be a concern that this is a “back door” route to obtaining commercial (non MOD) usage.
- To build a new fuel storage site to modern standards will involve major civil engineering and construction work for which the current access road is inadequate – all having a major effect on the local environment, landscape and wildlife.
- The list of substances appears to extend beyond pure aviation fuels. For instance “Stadis 450” is listed which has a flash point of only 6° C. It contains toluene which is a very potent carcinogenic compound. Di-ethylene glycol mono Methyl Ether (DEGME) has been proved to cause birth defects.
- There is a lack of detailed information about the substances to be stored and whether any processing/mixing/derivation will take place on site
- What vapour recovery systems are proposed? No details are given about the frequency of transfer between pipeline and tanks etc.
- Although the OPA is a pipeline agency, they are looking for access by road. Will road/tanker access be required for any of the proposed fuels – any movement has been by pipeline in the past?
- Bathing Pond Woods – a listed feature – is within 50 metres of the depot.
- The Oil and Pipeline Agency has not made available a copy of the application within the locality to allow local residents to consider properly the OPA’s proposals. A sight of the application is only available by appointment with a “man in a van” at the site and at several days notice.
- Remember – the MOD no longer have Crown Immunity from the need for permission to store hazardous substances and have to seek consent like anyone else.