



Site Ref: 21/00337/FUL Erection of extension to existing cheese production premises
Site address: Herriard Nursery Barn Scratchface Lane Herriard Basingstoke Hampshire
RG25 2TX

To whom it may concern,

Please note that two of our Parish Councillors are conflicted on this matter, one as a near neighbour to the application site and the other as landlord to the applicant. The following comments represent the considered view of the remaining 3 Councillors.

Hampshire Cheese Company is a shining example of a rural business that has created “best in the world” status for its products. Our village is proud to have them based here and Herriard Parish Council fully supports the applicants' stated aim to improve the efficiency of their cheese production facility and allow for future growth of their business.

The Company's premises are located within Herriard Estate just off the A339 on Scratchface Lane, which is a narrow unclassified road. Other premises on Scratchface Lane support a variety of rural/agricultural activities. There are also a number of offices and private residences, which have been converted from original farm buildings. Some of the private residences are within 50m of the proposed development and face it directly.

The volume of traffic using Scratchface Lane has increased over the years and the growth in non-agricultural movements has led to complaints from residents. Particular issues have arisen from vehicles delivering and collecting from Hampshire Cheese Company outside normal business operating hours. It is testament to the mutually considerate relationship between the company and residents that these problems have been discussed and mitigation measures agreed. The same accommodation has been possible for some aspects of the current planning application in terms of over-looking and screening. The applicant also makes the point that the new extension will increase storage space and should therefore lead to a helpful reduction in the frequency of some goods-in supplies eg packaging materials.

However, the residents do remain understandably concerned about future traffic volumes and possible increases in the size of vehicles serving the facility.

So, while Herriard Parish Council supports the principle of this application, we would urge that a suitable traffic management plan be required as a condition of approval. An agreed set of rules will give both the applicant and local residents clarity and certainty about future operations and provide a basis on which the existing positive relationship can be maintained.

Herriard Parish Council