



Stowe by Chartley Parish Council

Mr Richard Wilshaw BSc (Hons), MSc, PGDIP, MRTPI,
Planning Case Officer,
Planning Department,
Stafford Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
Riverside,
Stafford,
ST16 3AQ,

8th September 2025

Delivered by email to Richard Wilshaw on rwilshaw@staffordbc.gov.uk and planning@staffordbc.gov.uk

Dear Mr Wilshaw,
Planning Application 25/40571/ FUL - Yew Tree Farm

You will have already received the comments from Stowe-by-Chartley Parish Council when we recommended that the above planning application should be refused. The recommendation was supported by seven pages of detailed argument together with copies of paperwork which we had sent to a number of organisations, which we felt could offer relevant evidence. The short period allowed for responses meant that there was no time to allow for replies.

It has become apparent from the SBC website that in the region 83 comments were prepared by the company "Your Shout" which I understand is a client of "PUSH Generation and Supply Limited".

Of the 83 posted comments 78 support the application, 3 object and 2 are neutral. In every case the supporting comments are very brief and suggest that they are made about the provision of green energy as a concept; they make exceedingly few references to the very detailed application concerning Yew Tree Farm. It is this proposal that is the subject of the consultation – not the wider issue of renewable energy.

The relevance of these comments is highly suspect as there are no details of the methodology of the canvassers – no details of introductory comments, nor questions asked. In addition, initial investigation suggests that many of the quoted addresses are incorrect – some have the wrong post codes in Hixon and relate to Stafford addresses and at least two are empty properties. No email addresses are included despite there being a box on the form for **this information**. **Why would one not take the trouble to include email addresses, if the facts were totally genuine. We therefore question this lack of detail on the said form.**

A member of our working party has visited residents in Great Haywood, an area reported to have been visited by "Your Shout" and some residents reported they were only asked to agree that they supported green energy. One individual questioned reported that the canvasser stated that support for the Yew Tree Farm, would bring about cheaper electricity for him as a homeowner. Another resident said they believed that the gentleman must be okay, because he was elderly and he asked him to tick a box to support green energy. These examples of "sharp practice" are totally unacceptable, and unfortunately, in some cases this gentleman acting on behalf of "Your Shout," **appeared to be exploiting vulnerable individuals.**

During the Lower Farm -23/36938/FUL planning application a similar situation occurred and at the planning committee meeting to discuss this application, it was agreed, the presentation of these letters, which were identified as being of a "somewhat dubious practice". As a parish council we totally agree with that statement. Following this judgement by SBC councillors, it was then agreed that the 232 "letters" should be classed as a petition, and as such should be recorded once and not given any further merit.

We assume that the employment of a canvassing company is legal, but there is a high degree of immorality in this apparent method of working. It would seem that householders were questioned on their stance on renewable energy, and their answers used to apply to a different and loosely-connected issue. We would argue strongly that the submissions from "Your Shout" have neither validity nor reliability, and as such should be given no credence and should be dismissed as a petition. The precedence set in the hearing of the Planning Committee when discussing Lower Farm should inform the decision to recognise the "Your Shout" submission as **one entry**. We trust you agree?

It would help enormously to know from you the best route to publicising this apparently sharp practice in order to show the public and your members sitting on the Planning Committee, the underhand methods applied by the developer and their agents.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sue Buxton CILCA
Clerk and RFO of Stowe by Chartley Parish Council

Cllr Peter Coote BA(Hons)MA(Ed)
Chair of Stowe by Chartley Parish Council,

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CC to: Cllr F Beatty MBE ARAGS, Cllr K Aspin - Stafford Borough Council and Cllr Andrew Mynors - Staffordshire County Council and all Stowe by Chartley Parish Councillor's and the working party.