



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

Concerns have been expressed by both parishioners and Parish Councillors that it has been difficult in the extreme to navigate the SBC website, which shows responses to the consultation process from the public. In addition, on more than one occasion a member of the SBC staff answering the telephone has been less than helpful.

As I am sure you will agree, it is very important that all responses should be readily available for members of the Planning Committee and members of the public to view. In any planning application public responses are important, but in a planning application of this nature which will have a major effect on the locale it is vital that responses are clearly available and are open to inspection.

Councillors have previously, had many problems finding some of the written objections, which they and others have made for submission to the Stafford Borough Council website, regarding the above planning application. It should not be acceptable for members of the public to have to telephone to find how to navigate the system only to be told of a pathway which is not made clear on-line. It is even more frustrating if the response is given in a patronising tone of voice. It is important that one can check that responses have been listed following submission.

Please will you assure the parish council, that all responses will be listed without the use of a drop-down box, which hides responses behind other responses and therefore creates this navigational nightmare and confusion. We request that in the future all responses are listed individually or if they are listed in a group, we urge you to allow individuals to be able to view them simply by scrolling down the relevant page.

Furthermore, it would aid clarity if no more than 5 general responses are listed together and the number of responses should also be listed on each title page. If responses are grouped for a particular reason, it would seem reasonable for these to be reported and displayed together. An example of this is where Staffordshire County Council cabinet members, have all signed a letter. It is sensible and reasonable for these to be grouped. Also, we are hoping to include letters from local parish councils and councillors in September. These could also be one group, providing they are identified and the number of responses is listed clearly on the title page and they can be view continuously one after another.

Also, please can the parish council be assured that members of the Stafford Borough Council staff respond in an open, an easily understandable manner and a transparent format in the future, when councillors or individuals telephone the SBC office.

We look forward to your response regarding this matter.

Thank you for your help.

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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