

Matter 12 Policy 19 NOISE POLLUTION

The Council is in receipt of the representations from people with learning disabilities and their carers from Spring Bank Farm. I do not know who has seen these.

Some people who live at and visit Spring Bank Farm cannot speak or sign to communicate. They live every day with multiple, complex needs. They, by verbal, written or non-verbal means, would like me to tell you their views.

So today I am speaking on behalf of all these people who have learning disabilities, some of whom are also on the autistic spectrum, or have additional sensory or mobility needs, who live in the care home or visit the activity and resource centre at Spring Bank Farm.

One of their concerns is that that it will be too noisy for them– the building work will cause people distress. Many people who are on the autistic spectrum are easily overloaded by sounds or touch or odours or sights – things that would not have any significant effect on others. There is a sensory processing disorder called ‘auditory defensiveness’. It is considered to be an,

‘extreme sensitivity to sound. This includes sounds which are not particularly disturbing or distressing to most people. These may be specifically high frequency sounds, low frequency sounds, or both high and low frequency sounds. When children (or adults) are oversensitive to sound, it results in fear, anxiety, and at times avoidance of the activities that most other children enjoy participating in. A child who (or adult) has auditory defensiveness, when faced with the sound, might typically cover their ears and show signs of distress - or might begin to cry.’ (quote from Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Children’s Community Occupational Therapy ‘Auditory Sensory Strategies’.)

A number of people who visit the centre and live at Spring Bank Farm are over-sensitive to sound. Building a road and estate on this side with the ongoing noise both would generate, represents an unnecessary suffering for them.

The Cordy Lane option would be significantly less intrusive, short, medium and long term.

Sally Hodges on behalf of people who live at and visit Spring Bank Farm.