

**From:** webmaster@herefordshire.gov.uk [mailto:webmaster@herefordshire.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 30 January 2018 14:00  
**To:** Planning Enquiries  
**Subject:** Planning application comment was submitted

The following is a comment on application 'P173774/F' by 'Tom Quirk'

**Nature of feedback:** Objecting to the application

**Comment:**

I wish to strongly object to planning application no. P173774/F – Proposed Erection of up to 32 hectares of fixed (non-rotated) 'Spanish' polytunnels over arable (soft fruit) crops grown on 'table tops' and all associated planning numbers.

**Adverse effect on landscape and visual amenity:** It will have an adverse effect on the appearance and character of the landscape and will be out of keeping with the field patterns and views of rural Herefordshire. This development is of industrial proportions and will be highly visible from many miles away. It will disrupt the visual amenities of the immediate surroundings and of the wider landscape views.

**Highways safety:** It will be next to the A4137, which is number four in the top 10 of Britain's most dangerous roads (EuroRAP). Creating a new vehicular access onto this road and allowing up to 240 pedestrians to walk along this road, which currently has no pedestrian provisions, would increase the safety risk to all road users far beyond acceptable limits.

**Flood risk:** The areas of Biddlestone, Langstone and Llangarron are frequently subjected to flooding, which is sometimes severe enough to prevent vehicular access to some properties. The proposed development will potentially significantly increase this flood risk.

**Precedent:** If planning permission is granted for a new polytunnels development in this area it will set a precedent for further new sites to be erected.

**Historic Environment:** It will detract from the archaeological and built heritage of the area, and will detract from the sense of timelessness that the area currently enjoys.

**Ecology:** Covering such a vast area of farmland with plastic sheeting will have a serious detrimental effect on the wildlife, as the feeding areas for many animals and birds will be destroyed.

**Economic Impact:** It will not benefit the local economy or provide new jobs for local people as the workers will be migrant workers, who will use an on-site shop. There is no evidence that local people will be employed at the site. It may further damage the local economy by deterring tourism, new residents and businesses from moving to the area, thus undermining jobs and the economy. Furthermore influx of a large itinerant workforce will put additional



strain on already stretched amenities such as GP and dentist surgeries and the local A&E departments.

Tourism: The scale of this proposal will severely affect local tourism. The polytunnels will be seen from many tourist sites of interest and deter visitors from coming to the area or spending money on accommodation in the vicinity.

I believe that the above objections hugely outweigh the negligible benefits that the proposal may offer and I urge you to refuse the proposed development. The documentation for this proposal is complex and lengthy so I reserve the right to make additional objections should I become aware of any further information of concern to me.

Thank you.

**Attachment:**

**Their contact details are as follows:**

**First name:** Tom

**Last name:** Quirk

**Telephone:**

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[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning\\_services/planning\\_application\\_search/details?id=173774](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning_services/planning_application_search/details?id=173774)