

Ballingham, Bolstone and Hentland Group Parish Council further representations.

Following submission of amended applications under the above references, the Group Parish Council maintains its previous objection and makes the following additional comments:

- 1) Full representations cannot be made until the applicant submits planning applications for the entire development so that they can be considered together. We ask that the Council defer consideration of the above applications until the entire proposal can be properly assessed and representations sought.**

The true scale and impact of the proposed development cannot be fully assessed until the applicant resubmits plans for accommodation of seasonal agricultural workers (SAWs). Previously, the applicant submitted plans for on-site accommodation for SAWs, thus acknowledging the interdependency between the polytunnel development and the need for SAWs; you cannot have one without the other.

No application has been submitted for the SAW accommodation. However, based on the information available to us at this time, we have severe reservations with the applications' failure to address a number of issues, particularly the location for the workers.

- 2) The original proposals as submitted were environmentally damaging and the amended applications worsen the situation.**

. The use of fossil-fuel buses to move SAWs to the proposed polytunnel site, together with the use of vehicles to move picked strawberries some 3.5 miles for processing, would increase pollution, noise and traffic density on the busy A4137 and yet busier A49 – a strategically important road in the Herefordshire Transport Plan. The proposal to operate on every day of the week would be disturbing and disruptive to residents who live along and adjacent to the A4137 and A49. Slow-moving agricultural vehicles and buses already use the road, but the density of these types of vehicle would increase to the detriment of tourists and the general public who use the road.

There are clear, negative, implications for road safety. Part of the proposed route for the transport of strawberries along the A4137 includes the crossroads at St Owens Cross, acknowledged as an accident blackspot.

Within the last few months, a cyclist was seriously injured on the A49 when a tractor driver failed to see him. Herefordshire attracts cyclists and walkers who contribute to the local economy. This proposal, if accepted, is likely to cause reputational and consequential economic damage to Herefordshire's tourist trade.

- 3) The amended proposals would cause harm to the tourist economy in Herefordshire.**

The additional pollution, density of traffic and visual impact would deter cyclists and walkers who contribute to the local economy. This proposal would, eventually, cause reputational damage to Herefordshire's tourist trade

Were the Council minded to grant planning permission, it would be advisable to ensure that screening was already in place and established prior to construction of the polytunnels.