

Comments from paper forms

1

Regarding regular events it would be good if the community council and the protest groups worked with the greenman Festival organisers. Maybe this could set our parameters for large scale events and closing times for music. I think there could be great opportunities for the young people of this area regarding jobs. Why should the younger generation be forced out of their own community to find employment and housing.

Farms are for Farming as stated in the banners around the village. There are not many farmers in this area that do not diversify. Campsites, holiday lets Adventure farms etc can all be found in this area.

Diversification, sustainable farming practises are the way forward for already struggling farms.

2

I'm fairly neutral on this subject and can see the arguments on both sides, but overall I'd say the project should be given a go. Especially taking into account the closing of the Bwlch post office and uncertainty over the Talybont shop, cafe and P.O. Maybe Talybont needs this investment to secure its future.

3 -

4

Gilestone is a farm and should remain so. A young farmer should be given a chance to farm it and help feed the nation. I worry that commercial developments will escalate and expand beyond control. Gilestone is far from suitable for the 'Green man'. Lack of parking and intruding on the local community and disrupting the flora and fauna etc.

5

qn 1

Main issue is with the secrecy at the start. All presented as a done deal. However, the information now supplied by Green Man is, I believe, sufficient for now but I would like even more details.

Qn 3

Object to your use of 'regular' as Green Man have stated that nothing will be done without the consultation of the locals!

6

1. Why the need for all the secrecy at the reasons for purchase? This has led to so much speculation and perhaps unnecessary negativity.

7

qn1

Not at the start but interested in the plan that came after.

Qn3

Ecologically speaking there will be a limit on what can be done on the site anyway so how much can they really expand past what they have stated?

As a young person in the conservation industry I see both sides. There is a lack of areas young people can develop a career in rural Wales. We need something that young people can skill up and earn money (it might even bring house prices down to an affordable level!) Regenerative farming is the future of Welsh farming, it need supporting and it needs industry leaders. If Green Man have the money to develop and support our community and its young people then I support it. They are respectful of the environment/ecology at Glanusk when the festival is on so why not at Gilestone?

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What is full capacity of the site.

£23 million suggests a large commercial enterprise which will change the character of the community. Welsh Government has been very “underhand” in this development.

11

I’m 100% opposed to the Gilestone Farm Project. Because

1) The infrastructure needed for what they have planned so far is not good enough by a long way. The village is already cannot deal with the volume of traffic with the current influx of visitors.

2) The roads are not big enough in and out of the farm to deal with increased traffic.

3) The National Parks are designated areas of outstanding natural beauty . People come here for the peace and tranquility, the dark sky zone will be destroyed and you will loose the repeat trade for a few people who are only interested in this project going ahead – to line their own pockets.

The way the community has not been consulted from the offset, and still to this day, has been ignored. We appear to have been rough shod over again, thinking that we will agree to having our beautiful space ruined for the pleasure of thrill seekers.

The farm if it is to stay a farm should be run by a farmer - or co-operative of farmers who know what is needed and required for it to work.

The local government and BBNPA insist that we adhere to all the planning stipulations that we as home owners have to do and yet – it appears that none of this seems to matter now, as long as their plans go their way.

We do not need another micro brewery or bakery in this area.

Wicked waste of Tax Payer’s Money that will never be paid back, has been squandered when the Government could have used it to pay for school meals, Hospital/ the list is endless.

All the proposed plans for commercial development could quite easily work at the Builth Show Ground where all the infrastructure is already in place.

Too many lies have been told in the organisation of this whole project, that nothing said going forward will be believed.

12

We do not believe the traffic and people will stay on the Gilestone estate, but will come into the village which is already busy with the other visitors, cars and parking problems.

The number of people that will be wandering around and the change of use of the estate will have a very damaging effect on the wildlife which rely so much on the habitat now.

We can clearly hear the music and see the lights when events are held on the estate now.

13

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14 -

15

1. Noise pollution

2 light pollution

3 Area infrastructure

4 Points 1-3 lead to point 4, Depreciation of investment (homes)

16

*depreciation of assets

*pollution (light/noise/peace)

*Inadequate infrastructure

*Disrupted lives! affecting future generations

17

My main concern is regarding the large events of people, but as Green Man has not provided any definite numbers for these events, or how many people would be attending then it is difficult to know. If it was one event annually for 500 people that would be easier to reconcile than 3 or more events annually for 3000 people. Until Green Man puts forward a proper plan of what it intends doing, when and for how many people, then we are still in the dark with just rumours to go on.

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19

Concerned about access roads and overall inappropriate siting ie in a residential area - noise light pollution etc to people and wildlife.

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Small scale commercial development - yes – subject to aesthetic considerations – impact on the view etc. Large scale camping and other events would have a disastrous effect on the whole area and noise and light pollution traffic etc.

21

I would oppose any proposals for Gilestone Farm which would result in excessive noise, excessive traffic or a significant impact on the view of the valley. So I do not think musical events attended by large numbers should be permitted. And any increase in camping or glamping should be kept out of site.

Subject to these important caveats I would not oppose the use of Gilestone farm to increase the number of small businesses in the area, with associated employment opportunities, provided it did not result in a sprawl of new industrial buildings. Nor would I oppose measures to increase the agricultural use of the site.

22

Leave the farm as it is enough going on in Talybont don't need these proposals.

23

- the community was not consulted before purchase

- not needed or wanted in this area

- we have enough going on in this area without this

24

Welsh Government should never have bought this farm for the inflated price it did. Nothing should happen until the community have been fully consulted. It is not suitable for anything other than farming and wildlife and agriculture.

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This is only happening through the support of the Welsh Liberal Democrats. Labour does not have a majority so this could be blocked.

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I'm greatly concerned that Powys County Council, Welsh Government and National Park have shown no interest in communicating directly to the people in this community, it seems like they could care less!

29

If there was nothing to hide from the residents of Talybont then our questions would have been answered clearly and comprehensively. I think that any money made at the site will be to the detriment of the community and definitely to the environment and wildlife of this part of the Usk Valley.

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31

Totally unsuitable for small village community.

32

Concerns

Little information about plans for Gilestone from Welsh Government/Green Man - If the community is more informed people are more likely to make decisions/ have more positive opinions as opposed to the offensive/aggressive - "Stop Gilestone Campaign"

Positives

Plans for commercial development are positive for the younger generation in the community – I feel strongly that it may give younger people reasons to stay in the area, if more jobs were available. I am not in agreement with the "Stop Gilestone Campaign" which is currently very visible through our village – we are not informed enough to have such a negative view. When we are given the facts people will be able to make up/develop informed opinions and hopefully there can be some sane negotiation/discussion between all parties.

I would also hope that the data collected from these questionnaires will be collected by someone who is impartial, ie not on the Community Council?

33

Concerns

- excessive noise pollution for music events
- environmental impact on local wildlife
- Carbon footprint of business ventures, ???/events which should include visitor miles travel to event – not "green" at all.
- Inflated claims made about wealth generation using public funds - no business plan to be published

34

Why have the Senedd and local council/national parks not communicated with the community.
Behind the scenes deals being done, backtracking to save face.

How can someone without a business plan be assured that this deal was done and her future secured when we have been ignored.

Environmental issues to consider:

The farm is in a flood plain

There are rare mammals/birds species on site

Proposed festival/events as in the past have a visual impact to detriment the beauty of the valley.

35

1. What guarantees will green man provide that no music festivals will be held on site?

2. How will the employees/trainees get to Talybont to work/train in the proposed creative hub?

3. The village just about manages with the current in flux of tourists and visitors using the current camping, B and Bs, canal boats and rental cottages. How will an increase in footfall be managed for toilet facilities, food and drink, rubbish and dog fouling, parking etc?

36

Increased traffic, not suitable for a small village like ourselves. Village not suitable to have large events of any kind

3. Wildlife disruption

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Please see attached

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Re qn 4 I dont know enough about farming

1. My main concern is noise and light pollution

2. Traffic coming to the farmer's. 3. Crime!! Drugs!! (at the Jazz festival car show rooms put their cars away)

4. I dont think Green Man can keep them on site

41

I want to see Gilestone Farm remain as a farming outlook not turned into various business adventures.

42

It cannot be considered remotely sustainable to repurpose food producing farmland for an entertainment venue.

The carbon footprint of hundreds of people travelling to a remote venue will be colossal.

43

Large scale events jeopardise the peace and tranquillity of the area which is why people come here.

Large groups would have more damage impact on the environment.

44

1. I am concerned that the noise generated by a large event at Gilestone would have a detrimental impact on the village and surrounding areas.
2. Large scale events would have a negative impact on the wildlife in the Gilestone area.
3. The road into and through the village would be unable to cope with a large increase in traffic. In large scale events, food outlets and drinks are provided on site, so local businesses would not benefit.

45

- The local infrastructure won't be up to it.
- It could escalate out of proportion and become huge!
- There are enough tourists visiting these v small villages already.
- Additional visitors (at Gilestone) won't contribute to the local economy.

46

My concerns are the following:

1. Impact on the village and the surrounding area if large scale events (up to 3000) are held at Gilestone
2. Impact on the poor road network to the site and surroundings with large increase in visitor traffic.
3. Impact on the wildlife of the SSSI sites and adjacent to the river Usk through the disturbance of habitats.
- 4) Impact on the waste disposal network with large numbers of people on the site.

47

Main concerns are the increased number of people at large events making unsustainable demand on traffic and toilet facilities and the effects of noise and light pollution on wildlife and local residents. Any commercial developments (qn 2) would need to be small scale and in keeping with the area.

48

I believe the recent document by Green Man was full of misleading information and unrealistic figures for job creation and economic benefits. This whole affair has had an arrogant disregard for residents of Talybont.

49

Our community doesn't have the infrastructure or facilities to handle the number of vehicles or visitors. As for the probably noise, well!!

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This flood-prone site is quite unsuitable for the proposed use. The only sensible access is from the A40 over a single track bridge.

51

- Disturbance to wildlife and destruction of their environment.
- Traffic congestion in and out of the village
- Destruction of existing tourism as peace and environment destroyed
- noise and light pollution and rubbish left by these 'environmentalist' festival goers.

52

Talybont already attracts a high level of visitors all year round.

This development is in addition to a new caravan and camping park at the Old Station plus a holiday/cultural centre for the Gurkhas at Aber! The village will be swamped and face gridlock.

53

I have no objection to Gilestone being farmed as a farm but I do object to the festivals and large amount of people coming to the area, the village is not equipped to handle the extra volume of people and traffic as I have read that it will part of mid Wales development, I suggest they hold it in the Roy Welsh Showground which is in mid Wales and well equipped to hold large events.

54

1. Increased traffic to a small village that can't cope with it
2. Disturbance to important wildlife and plants on a triple SSSI site
3. noise
4. Ruining the countryside and farming scenery and views with crowds of people, tents, caravans and vehicles.

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My biggest concern is that the Welsh Government has wasted £4.5 million and now Mark Drakeford is asking ministers to make savings on their budgets. If you haven't got the money then I'm afraid you have to live without it.

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The idea of having a brewery, and bakery at Gilestone is good using the farm's resources and crops. The £23 million figure of supporting Welsh economy and 38 full time jobs is like me saying I'm going to live for 200 years!

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Unable to answer 4 until I know what the plans for future development are. What do they consider sustainable and regenerative practices. Private enterprise and development was stopped a few years ago but now the Welsh Government and BBNP are all in favour?

60

Unable to answer 4 until I know what the plans for future development are. What do they consider sustainable and regenerative practices. Private enterprise and development was stopped a few years ago but now the Welsh Government and BBNP are all in favour.

61

Traffic is bad at times.

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Re question 4: much more information is needed regarding this development of sustainable and regenerative farming practices are planned. Will this development provide training/apprenticeships for young people.

63

I am very saddened by the huge loss of wildlife along the Usk Valley between Pencelli and Talybont over the last 40 years. Once common sights and sounds of Curlew, Plover, Swallows, Swifts, hedgehogs and a great many other birds and animals and insects are now infrequently seen or heard.

We need to restrict public access to this unique area – not increase it.

64

We live in this area because we love the countryside as it is. If we wanted to live by night clubs etc that's what we would do. This has not been thought through. We do not have the infrastructure!!!

65

1. Lack of information is leading to unhappy divisions within our community, which is very sad.
2. "Gathering" of more than 500 people will have a massive impact on traffic management and cause unwanted disturbance to the entire community.
3. Small scale commercial development is welcomed if it leads to permanent employment for a number of people.
4. Sustainable and environmentally friendly farming practices are to be encouraged as long as they don't impact on the endangered wildlife such as nesting curlews.

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Without more detail of the intention with respect to gatherings, events, or festivals it is impossible to form a well informed view on the project., or to engage in proper consultation. Given the undoubted expertise and success of Green Man in this field, the information is doubly necessary. I would urge the TCC to represent these points to the Welsh Government, so that a substantive discussion may take place.

67

My main objections are to festivals and large scale events - the noise, congestion in the village (inadequate services) disturbance to wildlife and peace of the countryside here.

68

I feel the village and access off the main A40 is not suitable for large events also the village is gridlocked most days from normal visitors. The noise and pollution is detrimental to my mental health. Also damage to the wildlife and environment.

69

Already at max capacity for a small rural community. Lovely small village not made for large events, 3000+. ie Traffic sewage not to mention flooding.

70

Concerns for disturbance of natural habitats for river bank nesting birds and wildlife. Concerns for neighbouring livestock with excessive noise and possible rubbish pollution and river contamination.

71

Limited parking in the village, roads too narrow Toilets??

72

Back road too narrow to accommodate passing traffic safely, larger vehicles posing a larger risk already.

Noise pollution for the local residents

This project takes away from our very close knit community.

73

Noise pollution for residents.

Unpredictable river levels not suitable for regenerative farming practices. Safety issue for large events. Risk to life.

74

Q2- generally positive about development re brewery bakery creative hub BUT not re expansion of glamping and tourism business.

Positive re local food production and developments of decent employment opportunities.

I don't think that we need any more tourist accommodation in the village . It already feels like there are a lot of visitors in and around the village.

Qn3. Can “regular large events involving large numbers of people staying on site” ever be a truly sustainable option?

Does the National Park have a policy of promoting tourism in certain areas of the National Park whilst trying to safeguard other areas the effects of large numbers of visitors? Do we know if Talybont is identified as a green light to tourism village? I am concerned about large numbers of tourists/visitors. It already feels busy enough.

If the events are to be “sustainable” they need to be carbon neutral. A challenge to be addressed = most people coming to weekend festival events are camping and travelling by car. (transport volume and sustainability issues).

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Welsh Office White Elephant again.

Like the Welsh Racing Circuit .

No good.

No more tourism. Roads too narrow.

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Consultation has been very poor. Festival organisers who pride themselves on ‘green’ credentials should not jeopardise working farms.

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Totally unsuitable for a small village.

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Previous owners were not allowed to develop the site and they were forced to leave!

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The lane going to Gilestone is owned by Talybont Farm with Gilestone having access over it. Has anyone checked the deeds to Gilestone Farm. What are the access rights? Just agriculture? How would the campers at Talybont farm that has an established campsite manage to exit the campsite when three thousand people are trying to enter the lane to Gilestone? Will the bridge in station road cope with this amount of traffic, when was it last surveyed? Also traffic backing up on to the A40 although having slow markings on the road, the traffic travels down this road at 70 mph. Very worrying!

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Traffic build up
Noise pollution

93

If the project goes ahead will the Welsh Government have to compensate Mr and Mrs Thomas who were prevented from having a campsite at Gilestone?

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97

On 4 I do not believe that any such practices would outweigh the damage to the environmental

98 I gather that the site for the proposed project is too big for the local area -

99

Please see my letter to our MP Fay Jones.

100 -

101

Information withheld often suggests dishonesty, incompetence or corruption at some level. I join the many who question the need for yet another bakery or brewery – smoke and mirrors. Go where there is unemployment and close to supply chains.

Sorry about the pen and my handwriting.

102

- Inadequate info and consultation

- Traffic

-Impact on wildlife – light, noise, development, pollution

- Inappropriate rural location for this scale of devt

- Inappropriate decision making, and allocation of public funds

- Impact on protected species habitats

- Impact on communities: public loos in Talybont and buses are inadequate for this

- Sustainable/regenerative farming should be mandatory anyway and not be used as a Trojan Horse for inappropriate devt.

103

My main concern is that I feel there hasn't been enough clarity on the plans for the project. I feel that everyone I talk to seems to have a different interpretation of what is factually happening. This is leading to confusion and frustration amongst the residents of Talybont.

As someone who has grown up in the village, I am saddened to see the divide this has caused in the community. Talybont has always been a community that I felt so safe and welcome in. Our community is incredibly close knit with families knowing one another for generations. I am therefore incredibly sad to see the division that has been caused by this issue.

Another concern that I have is that Talybont does not have the facilities to support a large number of people coming to the village. WE already receive a large number of tourists and it can often feel as though the community is overwhelmed. Issues often arise with parking and noise pollution and I would be afraid that the Gilestone Farm Project would only heighten this issue.

Gilestone Farm had been an area of Talybont that has caused issues in the past when events were held there. I feel that many members of the community have a lot of negative experience with Gilestone Farm and this is something that I feel has not been taken into consideration when discussing the plans for the Gilestone Farm Project. Many residents are feeling that their concerns are not being listened to or taken into consideration.

104

The noise from events as only a couple of fields away. Also the congestion problems with the backup of traffic to events, across the bridge blocking roads as experienced in Crickhowell with the Green Man event. Also we have already had enough tourists in the village without encouraging more, and if they have a brewery and bakery on site they will be supplying the events themselves, so will not benefit local pubs or shop. Also will a brewery be creating smell, drifting across the village as in Brecon?

105

1) My concern is the lack of detail regarding the purchase of Gilestone Farm by Welsh Government and its proposed lease to the Green Man Festival.

1. Why was it necessary?
2. What are the economic benefits both locally and to Wales
3. What are the social benefits both locally and to Wales
4. How does this affect the well being of future generations both locally in Wales.

2) How will it affect the local highways? The entrance to the site is difficult from the main road and traffic could easily back up and lead to major traffic congestion, as people look for alternative routes this could impact the village. Are there likely to be large delivery lorries? Catering Trucks? Buses? Camper vans? Etc. All of this additional traffic makes it an environmental problem, a problem for emergency services and a problem for local businesses and residents.

3) Please could the Welsh Government take into account the History and Heritage of our village? Henry Vaughan's tomb overlooks the site. He was an advocate of how peace and tranquillity enhances our health and wellbeing. Loud music, traffic, crowds of people and a lack of understanding will lead to stress and anxiety in the village. There will also be light pollution, the local wildlife will be affected and there will be an effect on the environment – all for commercial reasons. What exactly is The Green Man Festival? The company has "Green" in the title but is largely a commercial enterprise which does little to actually improve and enhance the environment for the community and the people of Wales?

Thank you for reading my concerns.

106

A previous owner of Gilestone had a similar business running to the Green Man's proposals and they were forced to give up their business as it was not considered in keeping with the area. The noise carries to us from the Glanusk Estate when the festival is held that is over 5 miles so for the local residents of Talybont Village it would be terrible to have a site so close to their homes. The National Park have little consideration for the residents of the Park and being mindful of their needs is low down on their list. The Welsh Assembly have been very wasteful with government funds, when the money could have been better allocated, like the NHS.

107

1) I feel that this development is too large and totally intrusive for such a small village which does not have nor will have a sustainable infrastructure. We cannot cope with the numbers envisaged.

2) In short I am totally against any such development of good land which should be kept as a productive farm as is.

108

not sure sewerage etc OK for lots of people on this location. Would be better in the valleys where more jobs needed.

109

All those activities will cause too much traffic and noise in the village - The bridge isn't strong enough to cope.

110

1) The proposed development will increase the traffic congestion in the village, congestion, pollution on local roads.

2) The village does not need new businesses or certainly we do not want live events up to 3000 people with the relevant noise levels in a built up area.

3) Where does the Welsh Government find the figure of £23m for the local economy? If this is the figure this suggests a large commercial enterprise totally unsuited to this area.

4) Finally the way the farm was purchased by the Welsh Government in an underhand way when that money could have been put to a better use within Wales eg. Health Service And with no business plan!!

111

The proposals as laid out by the Green Man organisation will turn this peaceful beautiful Usk Valley into a business park – totally unsuitable for this area.

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Happy for small businesses to come to the farm, but not happy for festivals bringing noise and traffic.

114

I support the brewery, bakery and baking school, but I am very worried and concerned about what festivals would bring to the village.

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- Main concern is the increased traffic congestion through the village and potential noise from large events.
- Disruption of the peace and quiet we currently have the privilege to enjoy as residents of the village.
- The effect that the proposals and the associated lack of communication has had on a once happy community.

117

I worry that it is a flood plain and as such not the right location for lots of people to be staying at, even in summer.

Attached letters:

Letter 1

Dear Fay Jones,

I am writing to you concerning Gilestone Farm which has been purchased by the Welsh Government, a 240acre site in the heart of Talybont-on-Usk.

I understand the proposals for its use include the development of businesses on site and intend festivals which will potentially attract large numbers of people.

We are a local charity called Tiranatanaloka, a Buddhist retreat centre for women training for ordination. Our centre is at Abercydach house, Talybont on Usk, LD3 7YS. We have been here for 28 years and have strong links with the local community, tradespeople and food suppliers. We have a full programme of retreats every year with about 370 women a year spending up to 2 weeks at a time with us.

We offer an environment which is quiet and contemplative, often offering periods of complete silence so that women can practice effectively in a Buddhist context. Often women are taking part in walking meditations in our grounds and amplified music would have a strong detrimental impact on these women's spiritual practice.

We're very concerned that a large gathering on Gilestone Farm will have a negative impact on what our charity offer; people will be disturbed by the festival noise and, inevitably, the increased circulation of traffic especially on the one lane road that leads up to the reservoir and waterfalls and passed our property.

As a team of 8 women who are resident here full time, running retreats, we also feel concerned about the increased traffic, potential noise and loss of habitat for wildlife that developing Gilestone Farm would have, including destroying the foraging area for lesser horseshoe bats which are very rare but abundant in this area.

Our wish is not to stop tourism which is happily thriving in Talybont-on-Usk, but to find a way to use this site at the heart of our community which is more in keeping with a residential area.

Please could you let us know what procedure will be followed for the consultation process and how we can make formal representations.

Letter 2

I have had a long think before writing this objection as I do truly believe it is a good thing to try and encourage money into a village. I do however have a problem with this particular venture.

We are used to having visitors to our village but this does bring some problems. Mainly this is the amount of traffic. Although I am sure the organisers of whatever events are to be held on that site will say that traffic will be carefully managed. I do not believe that it will be possible. Firstly we already have a problem with queues of traffic waiting to turn off the main A40 road into the village or the reverse as they leave. The bridge and road leading into the village are narrow and already cause problems for lorries and large caravans.

By the very nature of people they will not just go to the Gilestone site but will want to drive up into the village. Whilst you would think that a good thing as they will visit our shop, cafe and pubs, we will have many problems with the number of vehicles. We have one small car park in the centre of the village. To the residents of the estate of Penpentre the problems are already there. The small car park is full by 10-10.30 on weekends., holidays etc. the cars then park outside the houses of Penpentre. This leads to problems for the residents in their normal life, coming from work, picking the kids up, shopping etc. they do not know if they will be able to park near their homes when they return. Once the estate is full people they park along the main road through the village. They then leave them there for the day as they go off. Foe me personally, the main problem will be the noise. When events are held at Gilestone the amount of noise is difficult to cope with. The bass notes from the music played can be heard very clearly even when you are in bed at the back of your home. The other problem is the noise and lights from the fireworks they seem to discharge when parties are held.