

Dear Sirs

I write to register my objection to the proposed new Prisons at HMP Grendon & Springhill, application reference 21/02851/AOP.

I have lived in Edgcott for more than 40 years, raised a family, and enjoyed an idyllic existence in this quiet rural environment, until now. We are all suffering from the disruption, road closures, environmental vandalism, and constant heavy traffic due to the EWR and HS2 works, the building of a new Mega Prison on our doorstep will have a further negative and severe impact upon our daily lives. The existing Prisons have been here for many years, they are unobtrusive and have a minimal impact on the two communities of Grendon Underwood and Edgcott, the new proposal however will have the opposite effect.

The proposed new Prison will triple the number of criminals in the current units, which would make it the largest Prison in the UK.

The proposed construction is Pre cast Concrete sections, 4 storeys high, plus service infrastructure on the roofs, sited on an elevated green field site that will pose a real blot on the landscape, as it will be a permanent prominent structure visible for miles around. The industrial nature of the design is not appropriate on a green field site; it should be sited on a brown field site.

Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new development is appropriate for its location, this proposal is clearly not. Please consider the other relevant objections to the proposal listed below:-

The loss of green space amounts to approximately 70 acres of farmland, plus the loss of almost 800 metres of hedgerows, this is totally inappropriate in a rural setting, and will have a massive impact on the local wildlife, flora and fauna and public footpaths. The existing narrow village roads will not cope with the additional traffic generated by daily staff, deliveries, and visitor numbers, and in particular HGVs and plant and operatives during the construction phase. The current traffic and HGV movements due to EWR and HS2 are causing severe problems; a further major project of this nature will exacerbate matters severely.

The additional perimeter and security lighting will significantly increase the current level of light pollution generated by the current Prisons.

The new proposed Football pitch is situated too close to the existing Springhill housing estate, and will generate much noise and foul language. The noise from the existing pitch can be heard in Edgcott on a Sunday morning from its elevated distant position.

The proposed new access road is too close to the existing Prison entrance and the traffic calming road narrowing entering Edgcott.

The economic benefits of this proposal have been massively overstated, this is a low unemployment area with little social housing and high house prices. There are no bus services to the villages, and the nearest rail stations are in Bicester or Aylesbury. All staff, visitors, and service movements will have to be by car, this will add considerably to the carbon footprint of the proposed scheme.

The site and surrounding areas are susceptible to flooding; the existing s/w drains will not cope with any additional loading, Grendon Road in Edgcott floods several times a year. The existing drainage system from the Prison estate is a combined system, in times of flood sewage spills exacerbate the problem in several differing locations.

The proposed car park is not big enough, it has 453 spaces, staff numbers alone are estimated at 734, plus visitors.

This Prison is more suited to a brown field site near a town with road and rail networks to handle the number of staff, visitor, and delivery movements. Every aspect of this proposal is most inappropriate to a small rural village location, with unsuitable roads and infrastructure.