

Royal Oak Farm has been in the Flower family since 1956. Barrie took over the running of it at the age of 21. We have farmed and looked after this land for the last 54 years . We raised a family here and have a grandson of 18 who wishes to carry on the tradition of farming on the farm he has grown up on. The Somer Valley Enterprise Zone and its Local Development Order tears apart our plans and aspirations for the future of our farm especially our Grandsons.

Royal Oak Farm is classed as grade 1 agricultural land we understand that it is government policy to protect the best and most versatile ( BMV ) land from significant inappropriate or unsustainable development proposals. So how can it be that BANES are going to tear up this prime agricultural land that is used for food consumption to build an Industrial park that the majority of the local people do not want or see the need for.

The long period of uncertainty and limited information has caused us untold stress and anxiety as we have found it very hard to get clear information from the council over the last 7 years. The dialogue has been irregular with long gaps of non communication.

We have tried to engage with the council, we have commented on plans tabled but even with some revisions the plans will have a detrimental effect on our home and significantly harm our farming business cutting our yearly income in half

Our main concerns which we have already raised with the council are as follows :

1. Royal Oak Farm is our land. The Council wants to take some of our land for SVEZ and we have not consented to this. The Council must justify the huge impacts on us and we do not see the Council has done so. We do not believe a demand for the scheme exists.
2. Secondly, the size, scale, height and character of the development, along with the traffic and flow of people it will bring, will completely change the look and feel of our home, our land and surrounding area. It is not an appropriate development for this area.
3. One building nearly touches our boundary with no tree screening and the office block will completely overshadow our home.

4. This will have a hugely detrimental impact on our enjoyment of the property and our general wellbeing. The council has repeatedly failed to acknowledge this.
5. The proposed development will sever our land to the north of the site. We have not been given any clarity on how we will access our fields. Who will control access, what limits on access might there be, who keeps the access route clear and who maintains it? Will it be designed to be fit for our use? If we can't easily access this part of the farmland we will not be able to continue what will be left of our farming business and it will be destroyed.

In summary, we stand firmly against the LDO being granted and the development being allowed to go ahead. We do not consent to the use of our land as part of SVEZ and we do not believe this speculative development is in the right place or is necessary.