

PLANNING COMMITTEE – 16 FEBRUARY, 2005

Report of the Development Control Manager

ENFORCEMENT ITEM

Parish: Pitminster

1. **File/Complaint Number** E53/30/204
2. **Location of Site** Former Nursery, Wrexon, Trull, Taunton.
3. **Names of Owners** Mr B K Cryer
4. **Names of Occupiers** Mr B K Cryer

5. **Nature of Contravention**

Use of land as a scrap yard and for the stationing of caravans.

6. **Planning History**

The land is a narrow site running adjacent to the M5 motorway close to the Taunton Deane Service Area. It was formerly used as a horticultural nursery until about October 2000 when the current owner purchased the land. Various unauthorised uses occurred on the site but were abandoned following visits and/or discussions with Mr Cryer. Early this year however a number of touring caravans were brought onto the site and broken up with debris strewn across the site. Complaints were also received that scrap metal, vehicles etc. were being brought into the site and cut up, sorted and loaded into skips. Also a number of fridges were stored on site. Visits were made to the site and the owner contacted but without success. Both Somerset County Council and the Environment Agency have been alerted to the unauthorised use. It is understood that two weeks ago the Avon and Somerset Police raided the site and removed one or two vehicles and seized other items.

7. **Reasons for taking Action**

It is considered that the use of the land for the breaking of vehicles and the storage of scrap is an undesirable intrusion into the open countryside to the detriment of the visual amenities of the locality.

8. **Recommendation**

The Solicitor to the Council be authorised to serve an Enforcement notice and take prosecution action subject to satisfactory evidence should the notice not be complied with.

In preparing this report the Planning Officer has considered fully the implications and requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998.

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