

BWM 15.9.09

NEWS

Plans 'hit farmland'

But Vision 'well intentioned'

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PLANS to develop land at Huntworth could mean more traffic and rob Sedgemoor of prime farming land, it has been claimed.

Sedgemoor District Council's local development framework core strategy, which sets out to guide new development across the district until 2026, includes plans to build a warehouse on land at Huntworth, off the M5.

The Junction 24 Action Group has been set up in opposition to the scheme and says its mission is to 'stop more damaging expansion on Greenfield sites at Junction 24, and to encourage development on the many Brownfield sites in and near Bridgwater'.

Group chairman Jeremy Stockley said: "The strategy's key component, the Bridgwater Vision, is well intentioned but it masks policies which threaten traffic gridlock at a key motorway entry to the town, and also the destruction of grade one farmland."

The council says all the proposals under the strategy are at

an extremely early stage and that any development would be subject to public consultation and its potential benefits include the creation of new jobs.

Sedgemoor's director of regeneration Doug Bamsay said the council welcomes views on the developments but stressed the proposals are still in draft form.

He said: "We have clear guidance from the government on how we should progress the proposals and the council will make a decision Wednesday on whether to approve a draft for consultation."

"That particular development at Huntworth may never get that far."

A final decision on the various schemes will be made by planning inspectorate - although no date has been set.

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