

NO MORE PRISONS HERE

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is seeking the views of residents and businesses on plans for a potential new prison on land adjacent to the current HMP Grendon/Springhill.

Full details of the proposed new prison can be found on the website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/potential-new-prison-in-buckinghamshire-public-consultation>

The proposed new prison will be Category C and accommodate 1440 inmates. The current prisons of Grendon and Springhill have a combined capacity of less than 600 inmates.

There will be 1000 people working on site at any one time during construction, which will take around 3 years, and the completed prison will provide 500 to 600 permanent jobs.

It is expected that the majority of residents in Edgcott, Grendon Underwood and many other villages in this area of North Bucks will be strongly opposed to this new prison.

The period for public consultation closes on 24 December 2020 and Edgcott Parish Council has submitted the following comments /objections which may assist you in making your submission:

- There will no longer be greenfield space between Edgcott and the proposed prison.
- The damage to the environment will be significant with the loss of much green space.
- The new prison will need to be well lit at night for security reasons resulting in much light pollution.
- The local sewerage systems struggle to cope at present and do not have the capacity for an additional 1440 inmates and 500 to 600 workers.
- This area is prone to flooding and concreting over the fields will make the flooding worse.
- 1000 people involved in the construction will put too much pressure on the local roads which are already struggling to cope with HS2 and EWR construction traffic. A recent traffic survey carried out in Edgcott shows a daily average of 3436 vehicles passing through the village.
- 500 to 600 permanent jobs plus daily visitors will result in a daily two way movement of at least 1500 vehicles which the local roads are not designed for.
- A more suitable site would be at Bullingdon where the existing prison has been successfully located on MoD land. There is still much surplus MoD land in this location and access to the A41 and M40 is much easier than the access to the Grendon site.
- The Ministry of Justice claim that house prices in the area will increase due to a greater demand. This is not the case as prison staff find the local housing to be unaffordable and they have to journey some distance into work. A prison in any neighbourhood is unlikely to ever appear on estate agents sale particulars as a selling point as it is likely to depress local house prices and make it more difficult for people to sell.
- Four storey blocks are proposed which would be totally out of character for a rural area.

Please ensure that as many people as possible in your household make their views known to the MoJ through the website links <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/potential-new-prison-in-buckinghamshire> and at the same time inform your MP Greg Smith and local councillors Angela Macpherson and Cameron Branston at:

Greg.smith.mp@parliament.uk

Angela.Macpherson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Cameron.Branston@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Edgcott Parish Council will be notifying parishes in this area of our concerns and please spread the word so that as many submissions as possible are made to MoJ.