



Dacorum Borough Council  
Development Management Committee

13th July 2017 at The Forum, Marlowes

Planning application for nursery expansion on land at River Hill



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## Dear Planning Committee

I am sorry that I will be unable to be here for this meeting as I am overseas on holiday. However, it is my privilege to lead a team of passionate, dedicated and highly professional people, who together have helped me realise my vision to build Majestic Trees into one of the finest nurseries in the UK. Over the past few years we have regularly lost sales as we ran out of various varieties and sizes of trees, and need to increase the depth of stock of the trees we grow every year. Many trees take a number of years to grow, so this new additional growing ground will allow us to increase our production to enable us to increase trade to satisfy our customers.

Our nursery does not prevent locals from viewing the site, as the footpath across the nursery offers everyone 24/7 access and one can literally drive in and walk the entire site 6 days per week for 10-11 hours per day. We sincerely appreciate the fact that 8 out of 10 of our future neighbours who have looked closely at our nursery have no objections and that the neighbour immediately adjacent to our nursery entrance supports our application. We will seek to maintain and protect the existing right of way through the site.

I note that there are a few objections, including some centred around the fact that a very nice bench was placed at the top of the field in the past 5 years as resting place for walkers. I have no intention of moving this bench even though it protrudes out into the field more than desirable, but plan to run a rustic post and rail fence along in front of it and down the footpath, then grade a drop in front of this fence to enable walkers to look out over the short hedging and multistem I promised to grow on this upper plateau to the views beyond. In fact at the PC meeting when this was brought up, I offered to pay all moving and relocation costs should it be decided that the bench should be moved.

Furthermore, far from our nursery not encouraging wildlife, our existing nursery attracts far more wildlife than the adjacent open field due to the protection that the trees offer. Numerous types of birds can be spotted on any visit to Majestic Trees, and lots of moorhens, ducks, geese, a regular heron, a kite, to name a few, whilst on the ground many other animals can be seen. Our current site has a far more populated *'home to many different wild fowl and other animals'* than the field we would like to add to our nursery and we think there will be an increase in wildlife as a result.

I can assure you that Majestic Trees is one of the most honest and caring nurseries. We have the strongest environmental credentials in our industry, and the **Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Areas (DERFA)** and also the **Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA)** consider us to be an example to our industry as to how we operate and our high standards of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration of our application.

Sincerely

**Steve McCurdy**  
**Managing Director**



This aerial view shows the nursery site photographed in 2010 which demonstrates that Majestic Trees does not surround the village with the large field above us that is cropped serving as a buffer to the village. The field to the right is the expansion we are proposing, of which 10 Flamstead residences overlook. Only 2 of the 10 objected to the nursery expanding onto this field.



Our nursery is laid out in rows of trees for the pruning, general growing and customer selection as shown here. The trees look lovely and blend in systemically with the field beyond.

## Flamstead Staff

We currently employ 30 members of staff, of which 1/3rd live in Flamstead with many others in local villages nearby. The current residents hold various positions, and we hope to increase our local employment with the addition of this field. They are;

1. Steve McCurdy, MD
2. Christina Glynn-Jones, Marketing Manager
3. Katrina Rhodes, Scheduling
4. Nicola Byrne, Horticultural Advisor/Sales Assistant
5. Fern Snowling, Logistics Manager
6. Nick Wild, Yard Supervisor
7. Carlos Guinand, Nursery Manager
8. Iain Heaslip, HGV 1 & Tree Planting Team
9. Bruno Lechevalier, HGV 1 & Tree Planting Team
10. Tommy Forrester, Tree Planting Team

Furthermore, many are very much engaged in village life with the longest serving team member being with us since early 2003, shortly after we opened.



### Honoured by our industry peers



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