

22 April 2021

Dear Residents,

I am very aware that there has been a lot of unhappiness about the marquee which has been erected behind Rookery Close for filming purposes and I have been in conversation about it with your Parish Council, David Powell (the Whirlwind Filming representative), officers at the Vale and some of the residents in Rookery Close. The Vale planning department have, very helpfully, set out the legal position of the applications for this development which is reproduced beneath this letter. A further application containing amended plans has been made and you can have your say on the Vale website on the FUL application (P21/V0025/FUL). I note that, following representations from the parish council and residents, proposals for the 'green screen filming set' have been removed from the plans for the southern dispersal area.

I have tried to persuade the filming representative to move the marquee away from Rookery Close but have been told that as this is the quietest of the marquees (housing the vintage vehicles needed for the film) it was felt that it should be the one nearest to residents. Furthermore, its positioning was also constrained by military, ecological and filming reasons. However, I have been assured that any other tents will be kept away from Rookery Close.

The production team are keen to have good relations with Shippon residents and have agreed to set up an occasion for local people to go on the set to watch some of the filming and to see what happens from the other side of the camera. A date will be put forward once Covid allows.

I hope this makes the position a little clearer.

Kind regards,

Catherine Webber
District Councillor for Marcham and Shippon ward

Whirlwind Filming on the Abingdon Airfield
The legal case for the development on the airfield

The area behind Rookery Close was subject to a prior approval application ref P20/V3342/N8C. This application sought to confirm that the proposed works fell under 'permitted development' rights, as set out under Class E, Part 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015. This legislation is set by central government, and outlines various types of development that can occur without the need for full planning permission. Under Class E, there are limitations as to what can be carried out, which include the temporary period not exceeding 9 months, and restrictions on heights of any structures which exceed 15 metres, or 5 metres where any part of the structure is within 10 metres of the curtilage of the land. Therefore, as long as the structures erected are within the limitations set out under Class E of Part 4, the LPA are unable to request the re-positioning of these structures.

