

25th October

Report from Black Eight Community Group to North Cadbury Parish Council

In March, a small group of Galhampton residents met to discuss the proposed Yarlington Manor Farm development by Emily Estate.

On 4th June we held an open meeting and presentation on the subject. Over 80 people attended. The general consensus was to oppose the development and we thereafter formed the Black8 Group with a range of members from across the Camelot Parishes. The name is derived from the proposed location of the new farm – Black Eight Acres.

We have met regularly since then and have created a website to share information on our group and the Yarlington Manor Farm proposals. Anyone is welcome to sign up to our newsletter and consult the website for updates.

At our most recent meetings we have discussed or actioned the following:

- 12th October: We sent an initial letter of intent to the Somerset County Planning Department, advising them that there will be a large number of people opposing the proposed development.
- We invited representatives of CPRE to view the area. They confirmed that they oppose the development and are writing to Paul Rawson to enquire if alternative, less impactful plans could be made.
- We have contacted all Parish Councils in the area, to make them aware of our group, as we feel it is important that all the surrounding parishes have a clear picture of how Emily Estate is changing the nature of the countryside and the rural communities.
- 14th October: We attended the most recent PC meeting at Shepton Montague, to observe the discussions regarding Lily Farm, where Emily Estate wishes to change the use of a farm; in this case, to holiday lets. We subsequently distributed a letter, drafted by one of the Shepton Montague residents, detailing possible reasons for opposing that planning application.
- 21st October: We distributed a detailed letter to the planning department and other interested parties, including Parish Councillors and Emily Estate, to advise them of the many reasons why we believe the YMF development is not acceptable. Our intention is to ensure that any pre-planning advice that EE receives from the planning department has been made in full knowledge of the reasons why we feel the new farm should not be built.
- We will continue to meet regularly in anticipation of a planning application from Emily Estate regarding Yarlington Manor Farm.

We would like to reiterate that our group is formed of ordinary villagers from the Camelot Parishes. We are not against The Newt or Emily Estate per se, but we are opposed to unfettered development of the Estate which pays little heed to the local community.

James Brooker