

THE WHITE HOUSE
46 ST JOHN'S ROAD, SAXMUNDHAM, SUFFOLK, IP17 1BD

Mr Vincent Pearce
Development Services Manager
Colchester Borough Council
Rowan House,
33 Sheepen Road,
Colchester
CO3 3WG

4 February 2013

Dear Mr Pearce,

Stour Valley Visitor Centre at Horkesley Park (Application No: 120965)

I am writing as a direct descendant of the painter John Constable RA, whose work is part of the cultural heritage that underlies the designation of the Dedham Vale AONB, and whose paintings are specifically invoked by the applicant as part of the current proposal.

As you may recall, I was a prominent objector to the previous application, and spoke at the determination meeting when that proposal was refused consent.

When I heard that a fresh application had been submitted, but on a smaller scale, I naturally entertained some hope that the applicant had responded to the opposition from the Council itself, from many other bodies and consultees, and from the public, and had endeavoured to find a scale and character that was both compatible with policy and did not threaten unacceptable harm to the AONB itself.

However, the new application is substantially and in most points quite literally the same proposal, but with what even an unsuspecting eye must regard as cosmetic adjustments.

What was unacceptable in the previous application remains unacceptable now; what was incompatible with policy then is still incompatible. The previous proposal threatened unacceptable harm to the AONB, and so does the current proposal, in spite of the fact that it uses the Constable name to suggest otherwise.

It is disappointing to have to conclude that the applicant has simply not understood the message sent during previous consultations, and by the previous refusal of consent. Nevertheless, that appears to be the case, and consequently **I believe that the Council should refuse consent once more on the grounds of harm to interests of acknowledged importance, and I wish to record my objection to the current application.**

Yours sincerely,

John Constable, Phd (Cantab), FRSA.