

Dear Committee

The main central hub of The Wasing Estate is located within our Parish and we are only too acutely aware that the financial challenge facing rural estates such as this, is becoming more and more difficult by the day. The proposed development at Shalford Farm will turn a run-down eyesore in to a lovely, local rural enterprise which will no doubt help support the Wasing Estate in to the future, securing diversified income, protecting the farming operation and in turn protecting jobs. We all know only too well at the moment that job retention and creation is right at the top of the government's agenda.

The idea of having a farm shop and restaurant that is using fresh organic produce direct from Wasing Farm should be recognised, appreciated and applauded, as more and more people see the benefits of reducing, or in this case, eliminating food miles, helping the environment and healthy eating. There will be many people who would relish the chance to go and buy some fresh vegetables that they have seen growing in the local fields!

With the current economic outlook, a positive development such as this, that will provide jobs and economic stimulus to the rural economy, should be welcomed whole heartedly and fully supported.

Our Parish Meeting is in full support of the proposal, recognises the significant efforts the Wasing Estate has gone to in order to reduce the size and scale of the site from the previous application and would ask that the committee view it in a positive light and realise all the benefits such a scheme will bring to the local community and economy.

Yours faithfully

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Paul Woodley
Chairman – Wasing Parish Meeting