

Planners to see warehouse site

A CONTROVERSIAL plan to build a warehouse, which objectors say will loom over nearby homes, has been delayed so councillors can visit the site.

Set In Hand Specialist Services wants to expand its Stowmarket operations by building a warehouse and five trade units on land off Cedars Link Road.

However, residents fear the structure, parts of which would reach 14 metres high, could dominate the sky line and create more traffic in the area.

On Wednesday, Mid Suffolk District Council's south area planning control committee agreed to visit the area before approving the plans.

Kevin Stobbs, from the Cedars

by Anthony Carroll

Park Residents Association, said: "The development is just going to be an eyesore," he said.

There were also concerns about the noise levels and traffic.

The application for the warehouse includes parking spaces and offices. Set in Hand, which employs 76 people in the area, said the move was necessary to remain competitive.

The district council has received a 72-name petition from residents and a further 21 objections protesting against the scheme.

Cllr Frank Shephard, speaking at the meeting, said: "Being a resident of Stowmarket, I know employment is a very, very large issue.

"However, this has got to be balanced by the interests of the

residents within the particular area.

"I am deeply concerned about the size of the warehouse. I do feel they have to come up with a different plan."

Cllr Gordon Paton said: "I have doubts on the design. We talk a lot about keeping the design of the Suffolk landscape, but what we have here looks more like a Dockland development."

Councillors agreed to visit the site in two weeks before making a decision.

■ Councillors approved an application to build 76 new homes at Cedar Park.

Residents had opposed plans for some two-and-a-half storey homes, but councillors heard developers Persimmon had reduced the buildings to two storeys.