

WAREHOUSE GO-AHEAD

by Karen Wilson

RESIDENTS in Stowmarket have lost their battle to stop a giant warehouse being built near their homes.

People living on Cedars Park were left disappointed after Norwich firm Set in Hand Specialist Services was given the go-ahead to build an industrial development on open space close to their homes.

Under the plans, approved by Mid Suffolk District Council planners on Wednesday, a 45,000sqft, 14.5 metre-high warehouse will be built.

The site will also include a further five trading units with offices and car parking spaces.

But despite almost 100 people objecting to the council, claiming the building would overlook their homes and lead to increased traffic, the plans were passed unanimously.

Resident David Winsley, of Brambling Close, said: "We expected this to happen and of course we are disappointed that it's been agreed.

"We are at least pleased that all the conditions we wanted have been taken on board, including extensive tree planting.

"The campaigning was definitely worthwhile."

But Mr Winsley said there were still safety concerns over the new distributor road, which will link the A1120 with the B1115 Relief Road.

He said: "For us, the road is still an ongoing issue and I suppose we will have to wait to see what happens once the road opens. We may be back campaigning again."

Certain conditions were imposed, including restricting business working hours from 8am-6pm



DEVELOPMENT: A digitally created image of what the warehouse will look like

Residents fail in bid to halt plan

Monday to Friday and 8am-1pm on Saturdays.

Other conditions included comprehensive landscaping and tree planting, no external storage facilities, no food or retail outlets to be allowed and proper disposal of surface water run-off from the site.

Mark Roberts, speaking on behalf of Set in Hand Specialists at the meeting, said: "This site has been identified for local employment use and the company already employs around 70 people. It now requires additional space to enable a continued expansion.

"The trade units have been designed specifically for small traders to set up business and benefit Stowmarket.

"It has also always been our object to be mindful of the area and we understand that there are residents near the site. This is why we have designed the building to be sunk into the site, setting it as low as possible to minimise its impact on residential areas. Our landscaping is also not just a bolt on to the scheme."

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