

Protest over polo stud's moving plan

STRONG objections have been made by Broughton parish councillors over plans to relocate a well established polo stud in Stockbridge which is known as one of the top studs in the country.

Polo ponies from Homestead, at Houghton, have been supplied to famous riders including His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales.

Local businessman, Mr Christian Hepe, wants to move his polo activities just five miles away to Broughton.

Mr Hepe, who is the managing director of Hildon House Ltd — the Stockbridge-based manufacturers of bottled natural mineral water —

by
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has applied for permission to build stables and an arena at the walled garden, Hildon House.

According to a report from Test Valley's planning chief, the parish council 'strongly object' as it thinks the 'size of the proposed building would have an adverse affect on beautiful woodland setting and would generate extra traffic on narrow access roads'.

Deferring the plans for more information, the officer notes that the proposals are not well detailed and their future usage poses doubt.

● Plans involving the relocation of Gilden Builders from Broughton

and Pool Construction from Houghton into what are now cowsheds and stables at Homestead Farm buildings, Houghton, are still being considered by TVBC.

The chief planning officer in a report to members of the southern area planning committee says the situation is 'quite adequately remote to cause no disturbance except, possibly, traffic. He says if that can be resolved then permission could be given. But he says that it is not a suitable place for 'unbridled activity' and the council would need an agreement to control use and occupancy.

The proposals, which seek use of the farm buildings as stores and builders yard, have been deferred.