

Plan revised for garden centre development

Change to buildings layout as requested to proposal accepted in principle

By MIREK GOSNEY
mirek.gosney@newburynews.co.uk
@mirekg_nwn

A NEW development is being considered at Thatcham Garden Centre.

The proposal, made by applicant and site owner Paulin & Wilson Ltd, includes a new drive-thru café, a flexible commercial unit and six smaller commercial units with 53 car parking spaces across all units on mostly undeveloped land bordering Tull Way and the A4 roundabout.

West Berkshire Council has accepted the proposal in principle but requested the applicant change the layout of the buildings so they weren't located so close to the site boundary, which it has done.

A full application has now been submitted which, if successful, will generate 55 new full-time jobs, the applicant has said.

A statement prepared on the applicant's behalf read: "The final proposal protects landscape and visual amenity whilst securing a development



An artist's impression of the new site adjoining Thatcham Garden Centre

which will diversify and complement the retail and commercial offer of the existing garden centre, helping to secure the future viability of the business as well as providing new employment opportunities."

To access the drive-thru, vehicles would enter the garden centre from the A4 via an expanded two-lane system, turn left, travel round the building to order and then exit

via the internal access road on to Tull Way.

New connections to existing foul and surface water sewers located within the site are also included within the plans to manage and reduce the flood risk posed by surface water runoff from the site.

The exact levels will be confirmed before the works begin.

A series of zebra crossings on the internal access are also proposed.

The existing caretaker's bungalow will also be retained. The council is due to decide on the application by Friday, May 9.

Thatcham Garden Centre reopened in October 2020 after undergoing a year-long closure for renovation.

Historically, the site was known as Thatcham Fruit and Flower Farm in the early 1900s and later as Henwick Fruit and Flower Farm.

It later transitioned into a mushroom farm, which lasted until 1982, then eventually evolved into the garden centre it is today.

The final proposal protects landscape and visual amenity whilst securing a development which will diversify and complement the retail and commercial offer of the existing garden centre



Works are currently under way for the new memorial

Work starts on baby memorial at cemetery

WORK has now started on a new baby memorial garden at London Road Cemetery in Thatcham.

Thatcham Town Council has confirmed that work is under way on its much-anticipated memorial garden, which it hopes will give families who have lost children a space for quiet reflection.

This project was made possible through an online fundraiser, which raised more than £22,000, and support from groups including the Greenham Trust, The Forget Me Not Fund and Sands West Berkshire.

The design includes a memorial bay to the left of the current allocated 'baby section' space and a memorial

garden to the right.

They will include wooden benches, sympathetic planting and a statue in the garden for plaques to be added.

Each area will be enclosed by laurel hedging.

The idea for the garden started after stillbirth and neonatal death charity West Berkshire Sands Group approached the council in 2017 on behalf of parents who did not have a dedicated area to mourn their lost children.

The charity unfortunately closed soon after, but the town council has continued the project for those who have generously donated.

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of March.

Downs
CARPETS & BEDS

We've got your back!

There's no better feeling than a new bed.

Downs Carpets and Beds.

An independent business established for over 50 years; with experienced, caring sales executives who have the will and drive to ensure that the service you receive is second to none when choosing your new floorcovering or bed.

Sale now on

Downs Carpets and Beds,
Unit 3 Newbury Trade Park,
Hambridge Road, Newbury, RG14 5PF
01635 500400
www.downscarpetsandbeds.co.uk

Opening Hours:
Monday to Saturday: 9am to 5.30pm,
Sunday: 10am to 4pm