

Fury over scheme for bus depot

PLANS were today unveiled for a new bus depot at Bowbridge, Stroud.

The scheme has prompted a storm of protest from local residents concerned about increases in noise and fumes on their doorstep.

Stroud Valleys Buses today revealed it has bought the old Webb's transport yard to use as a depot instead of its existing London Road base.

Furious

Company Secretary of parent company Western Travel Group Chris Hemming said the firm did not need planning permission to move to the land as it was already used for transport.

Mr Hemming said: "We have had surveyors on site recently doing a study and as soon as we have firm proposals for some

by Jo Barber

purely cosmetic changes to the building already there we intend to inform the nearby residents.

"We are a known quantity. But with things as they are a far more substantial haulier could have bought the land for a fleet three or four times the size of ours."

Neighbouring householders say they are furious they have not been consulted.

Nursery school owner Anne Farmer, who lives close by with her husband and four children, said: "The first we knew of all this was when we saw the surveying a few days ago.

"The noise when this land was used for Webb's lorries was terrible. I am also very worried about extra traffic at the Bowbridge junction," said Mrs Farmer.

Meeting planned over depot move

CONTROVERSIAL plans for a new bus depot at Stroud are to be discussed at a special meeting.

The talks are being organised for residents at Bowbridge by district councillor Jenny Bircher.

Residents there fear they will suffer noise and fumes when the Stroud Valleys Buses fleet moves to the former Webb's Transport yard at Bowbridge from its present base in London Road.

A firm date has not yet been set for the meeting but Mrs Bircher said she hoped representatives of Stroud District Council's planning department and the bus company would attend.

"I feel very strongly about

this depot because its access will be almost on top of a very dangerous staggered cross-roads," said Mrs Bircher (Con., Trinity) who plans to hold the meeting at the British Oak pub where she is landlady.

She received the first complaints about the depot plan from Bowbridge residents at the weekend.

Chris Hemming, company secretary of Cheltenham-based Western Travel, Stroud Valleys' parent company, has confirmed his company has bought the old Webb's premises.

He said when plans for minor changes were finalised he would explain them to residents in the hope of allaying their fears.