

Re: Planning Consultation for Newlands Bishop Farm

Clerk <clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk>

Tue 15/12/2020 10:08

To: bwatkinson@solihull.gov.uk <bwatkinson@solihull.gov.uk>

Dear Benn,

This is the response of Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council to Planning Application 2020/02784/PPFL for the erection of a triple combined tepee tent for use by adults with learning disabilities and groups whilst on site at Newlands Bishop Farm, Berry Hall Lane Catherine De Barnes Solihull B91 2RY.

The Parish Council is aware of a considerable number of objections to this application and requests that it is referred to the Planning Committee.

The site already has planning permission for a marquee which is being used for social and entertainment purposes especially throughout the summer period. It has a licence which it understood allows for up to 15 functions per year. With the Covid-19 restrictions in place the facility has not been used this year but certainly in 2019 many residents were plagued by excessive noise issues most weekends during the summer. The licence conditions relating to operating hours were often not observed or managed and we believe Environmental Services received numerous noise complaints throughout that period.

We understand from a resident who was present at the original planning hearing for the current facilities that the current tepee arrangement was only to be on a temporary basis with the intention that a permanent structure would be built at some time in the future. That building would be constructed of normal building materials and have the appropriate insulation materials installed to render it reasonably soundproof. This has never happened. The materials used in the construction of the tepees has no noise insulation properties whatsoever – hence the concerns.

The licence, we understand, allows for events to be held “indoors”- we fail to see how tepees qualify as indoor facilities.

We appreciate and support the main activity of the Family Care Trust and the work it does and have no issues as long as the conditions of use are as stated in the application ie” for use by adults with learning disabilities and groups.....” although we do have some concern over the word “groups”. If the group/s are made up of those the facility caters for during weekdays, we have no objection. However, should it cover party groups, wedding parties and other groups of a similar nature, we strongly object to the application and seek its refusal.

The Design and Access document submitted with the application clearly states “We are applying for planning permission for a triple tepee tent to be able to provide extra space for our project workers at Newlands Bishop Farm. This space will enable us to allow all our Project Workers (PWs) to come back to NBF since having to close as a result of the global pandemic – Covid 19. We will use this facility daily as a place for PWs to have lunch and do a variety of activities from sport to crafting to potting on plants.”

In the event that favourable consideration is given to this application, we would wish to see approval being conditional on the facility being used for the purpose as detailed in the Design and Access Statement of the application and any activities such as any musical event/party/dance and any other activity that would add to the existing noise should be prohibited.

Kind regards.

Julie Barnes

Clerk for Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council