

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATIONS / CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2020

COMMENTS RECEIVED RE. ITEM 4.1 – PLANNING APPLICATION

- 1. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS FROM GEORGE HENSHAW, PLANNING & DESIGN PRACTICE LTD AGENT RE PLANNING APPLICATION 20/00632/FUL HAVE BEEN RECEIVED**

Erection of 8no. glamping pods with associated facilities, access track and landscaping at land Off Millers Green, Wirksworth

Final Representations to the Planning Board

Thank you, Chairman, for the opportunity to make representations this evening. I commend the officer's report for its detailed analysis and support the recommendation for approval.

The proposal is the siting of 8, small, timber glamping pods at land off Millers Green, on the outskirts of Wirksworth. The site is well screened from all directions by extensive tree planting, helping to reduce the development's impact upon the countryside. The timber pods will also not appear stark within the landscape.

The existing screening also helps to minimise any impact upon neighbouring residents. The proposed glamping site is adjacent to the applicant's residence and will subsequently have 24-hour observation. The applicants will be on hand for the day to day management of the site which intend to make a tranquil tourist experience.

The site is currently agricultural and has low ecological value. The scheme will result in a reduced intensified use of the land, with tree planting and other measures, resulting in a biodiversity gain for the site with enhanced habitats.

The proposal carries economic benefits to the Derbyshire Dales community, namely an annual spend of over £180,000 locally. Various local businesses have written in support of the application, stating a lack of accommodation within Wirksworth to support their businesses. The development will also result in an increase in employment, requiring staff to administer and maintain the site.

Derbyshire Dales District Council's Visitor Economy Plan, The Peak District Destination Management Plan, The Derbyshire Economic Strategy Statement and the D2N2 LEP Visitor Economy Review and Investment Study all support the provision of more high-quality non-serviced tourist accommodation to combat the problem of low visitor spend and a dominance of day visitors.

The proposal will provide an increasingly popular type of tourist accommodation and help to meet the growing demand. I ask that councillors support this application tonight.

RESPONSE:

The points raised were presented with the planning application and taken into consideration in reaching the Officers' recommendation.

2. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS FROM RICHARD PIGOTT, PLANNING & DESIGN PRACTICE LTD AGENT RE PLANNING APPLICATION 20/00632/FUL HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

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