The Coal Authority

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

RTPI Learning Partner

200 Lichfield Lane
Berry Hill
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG

Tel: 01623 637 119 (Planning Enquiries)

Email: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk

Web: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

For the Attention of: Case Officer
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

[By Email: planning@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk]

22 July 2016

Dear Sir or Madam

PLANNING APPLICATION: SMD/2016/0424

Proposed single storey extensions and alterations to provide new dining, kitchen & welfare facilities (resubmission of SMD/2015/0745); Charlie Bassetts, New Road, Dilhorne

Thank you for your consultation letter of 13 July 2016 seeking the views of The Coal Authority on the above planning application.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department of Energy and Climate Change. As a statutory consultee, The Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

The Coal Authority Response: **Material Consideration**

The application site falls within the defined Development High Risk Area; therefore within the application site and surrounding area there are coal mining features and hazards which need to be considered in relation to the determination of this planning application.

The applicant has submitted a Desk Based Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report (24 December 2015), prepared by a competent body in support of the planning application. The Report correctly identifies that the application site has been subject to past coal mining activity. The Coal Authority records indicate that the site is likely to have been subject to historic unrecorded underground coal mining at shallow depth.

The Desk Based Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report has been informed by an appropriate range of sources of information; including a Coal Mining Report, BGS geological mapping, historical mapping and borehole records. Based on this review of

existing sources of geological and mining information the Report concludes; that because the dip angle of strata is unknown, the depth of coal seams, which could have potentially been worked are unknown.

Accordingly, appropriate recommendations are included intrusive site investigation works in order to establish the exact situation regarding ground conditions and to enable appropriate remedial measures to be identified, if necessary. In the event that shallow mine workings are encountered, The Coal Authority considers that due consideration should also be afforded to the potential risk posed by mine gas to the proposed development.

The Coal Authority Recommendation to the LPA

The Coal Authority concurs with the recommendations of the Desk Based Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report (24 December 2015, prepared by LK Consulting Ltd); that coal mining legacy potentially poses a risk to the proposed development and that further intrusive site investigation works should be undertaken prior to development in order to establish the exact situation regarding coal mining legacy issues on the site.

The Coal Authority recommends that the LPA impose a Planning Condition should planning permission be granted for the proposed development requiring these site investigation works prior to commencement of development.

In the event that the site investigations confirm the need for remedial works to treat the areas of shallow coal mine workings to ensure the safety and stability of the proposed development, this should also be conditioned to ensure that any remedial works identified by the site investigation are undertaken prior to commencement of the development.

A condition should therefore require prior to the commencement of development:
* The submission of a scheme of intrusive site investigations for approval;
* The undertaking of that scheme of intrusive site investigations;
* The submission of a report of findings arising from the intrusive site investigations;
* The submission of a scheme of remedial works for approval; and
* Implementation of those remedial works.

The Coal Authority therefore **has no objection** to the proposed development **subject to the imposition of a condition or conditions to secure the above**.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours faithfully

Chris MacArthur

Chris MacArthur *B.Sc.(Hons), DipTP, MRTPI*
Planning Liaison Manager

General Information for the Applicant

Under the Coal Industry Act 1994 any intrusive activities, including initial site investigation boreholes, and/or any subsequent treatment of coal mine workings/coal mine entries for ground stability purposes require the prior written permission of The Coal Authority, since such activities can have serious public health and safety implications. Failure to obtain permission will result in trespass, with the potential for court action. In the event that you are proposing to undertake such work in the Forest of Dean local authority area our permission may not be required; it is recommended that you check with us prior to commencing any works. Application forms for Coal Authority permission and further guidance can be obtained from The Coal Authority's website at:
https://www.gov.uk/get-a-permit-to-deal-with-a-coal-mine-on-your-property

Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by The Coal Authority as a Statutory Consultee and is based upon the latest available coal mining data on the date of the response, and electronic consultation records held by The Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based upon only the information provided to The Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or has been published on the Council's website for consultation purposes in relation to this specific planning application. The views and conclusions contained in this response may be subject to review and amendment by The Coal Authority if additional or new data/information (such as a revised Coal Mining Risk Assessment) is provided by the Local Planning Authority or the Applicant for consultation purposes.

In formulating this response The Coal Authority has taken full account of the professional conclusions reached by the competent person who has prepared the Coal Mining Risk Assessment or other similar report. In the event that any future claim for liability arises in relation to this development The Coal Authority will take full account of the views, conclusions and mitigation previously expressed by the professional advisers for this development in relation to ground conditions and the acceptability of development.