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13th January 2020

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Planning Department
Moorlands House
Stockwell Street
Leek
Staffordshire
ST13 6HQ

Dear Sirs

Re: Prior approval Notification - New Track
Application on Behalf of Harrison Partners, New Hall Farm, Dingle Lane, Rushton Spencer, Nr Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 0QT

We write to confirm the agricultural need for this matter.

We enclose herewith a plan showing the extent of New Hall Farm edged in blue, with the site of the proposed track shown in red. As is shown from this plan, a large proportion of the land associated with New Hall Farm is on the opposite side of Beat Lane. Therefore, cows are regularly required to cross Beat Lane for grazing and back to the farm for milking at each end of the day.

Part of the route to hard standing, however the area where the track is proposed is not, and therefore turns into a very poached and trodden up area and excessively muddy, as is shown by the photos provided separately. The purpose of the track is to prevent this poaching and excess mud. The benefits of this will be;

1. It is better for cow heath and welfare. Their udders and feet are kept cleaner reducing the need for washing off in the parlour.

2. Keeping cows cleaner is also important for the milk quality and helps prevent bacteria build up which could cause mastitis. Importantly keeping areas clean reduce the need for antibiotics, which is encouraged by vets and milk buyers.

3. Much reduced risk of mud on the road, which is a danger to farm staff and other drivers.

I trust that the above provides adequate justification for the agricultural need for the track. The track will be constructed off concrete railway sleepers which are easy to clean off, need little maintenance and prevents stones getting into cow's feet which is a risk with hardcore tracks. The sleepers are also already on site, and therefore cost effective.

Following a site meeting with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council planning officer the route of the track was agreed and is shown on the site plan, and the clients are happy for the area shaded green to be planted with trees and shrubs to provide natural screening, as agreed during the site visit.

Yours sincerely



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