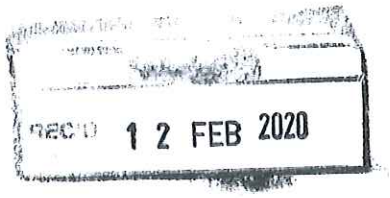
Staffordshire Moorland District Council

Moorlands House,

Stockwell Street,

Leek

ST13 6HQ



Dingle Brook Farm,

Dingle Lane,

Rushton Spencer

SK11 0RX

10th February 2020

Application No DET/2020/0004

Applicant's Name Mr Harrison

Location New Hall Farm, Dingle Lane, Rushton Spencer

Proposed Development Proposed Road.

Dear Sirs,

Re the above proposed planning application to allow cattle to cross Beat Lane, Rushton Spencer to the newly created gateway in the field north of the road opposite Gable Stones I have the following comments.

1. The gateway to the north of the road opposite Gable Stones appears to have been constructed without any planning permission being applied for or granted. This is the second gateway on the north of Beat Lane leading to the same field, the original being adjacent to the former Crown Inn. As far as I am aware there has not been any recent change of ownership of this field or adjacent fields to necessitate a change of access.

2. Beat Lane is a narrow road in an East/West direction causing sun to be a frequent problem. It is governed by the national speed limit with no central road markings and narrows considerably when approaching from the west at the top of a significant blind summit and down to the point of the proposed cattle crossing a short distance below. It is difficult to see over the summit in both directions, which I have experienced, even with an advantageous seating position in an LGV.

3. Access to the fields north of Beat Lane from New Hall Farm, Dingle Lane has for at least the last 30 years been from its two driveways onto Dingle Lane. Dingle Lane has the benefit of a wide visibility

splay in both directions at its junction with Beat Lane. This visibility splay, I believe, was as a result of the Highways department's intervention many years ago to improve road safety.

4. The cattle may benefit from the proposed crossing on the way to the field but this will have no reduction on the amount of mud brought on to the road on their return at a time when the road is soon to be at its busiest. The risk to farm staff having to brush the road by hand or tractor at peak times makes any attempt to clean the resultant mud off the road extremely dangerous and as an additional observation point, I have never, in 30 years living in the area, seen this attempted on the roads by the farmers.

5. The position on the road of the mud at the proposed crossing can only increase the likelihood of accidents and there have been many in the past including one involving a council gritting vehicle and the need for fire brigade intervention.

6. Beat Lane and Dial Lane have had a disproportionate number of deaths in recent years, with two of the three involving tractors, as it is a busy route from Congleton to Leek

Hopefully the Council, Parish Council and Highways Department will take all the above into account when considering this application.

Yours faithfully

Nicola Carman-Ellis