

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
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Application Reference No. : SMD/2021/0099 Site Address: Land Cornering Rudyard Road And Gun Hill Road Meerbrook Staffordshire Comments by: Tony Sherratt

From:

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Submission: Objection

Comments: We were concerned to see an application for development on this small woodland area, which clearly is within the Green Belt Area and because of previous felling of trees all remaining trees and the woodland has a Tree Protection Order. Meaning that the woodland which has been there for hundreds of years is protected and allowed to rejuvenate naturally. This environment is a natural habitat for wildlife and any disturbance would be detrimental.

In our opinion this application must be rejected as a precedence would be set for similar applications in the many small woodland areas in the Staffordshire Moorlands, it would be difficult not to approve future similar applications. I am unsure what enforcement the TPO have and within this type of development future self-styled risk assessment may result in other trees being felled. How is protection of the woodland enforced and what powers do they have?

The Property is not a traditional build, many properties in the area are old and build of local stone this design is not traditional to the Staffordshire Moorland Countryside.

We note that the application states (No trees will be removed for the dwelling, 3 number trees pass uninterrupted through the structure see plan PDF file REF: THE BARQUE HOUSE PLAN VIEW) Are these 3 mentioned trees being allowed to grow and how are they being protected from future negative risk assessments enforced?

The tree risk assessment states that in the opinion of the applicant and or person/s engaged on behalf of the applicant determines that 3 tree/s need to be felled. This assessment states two trees life expectancy is more than 20 years and one less than 10 years, there is no mention of tree management, maintenance or preservation. This does not seem to have been validated by an independent third party before works commenced over the bank holiday 1st & 3rd May a beautiful large tree was felled on this site. The tree survey states the trees are mainly native Beech, Oak and Silver Birch and referring to the Woodland Trust web site & Birch and Oak support hundreds of insect species being an important food source for birds and in winter oak acorns are a food source for deer, squirrels and badger/s.

We understand that within a broadleaf woodland trees decay etc however new saplings grow to replace them, how with this proposal can this continue? Typical lifespan of trees Birch 100 years, Beech 200 years, Oak 350 years. Woodlands need to be managed and maintained and with this approach trees can live much longer and trees will be allowed to grow when older trees come to the end of their life.

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