

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 30 May 2021 21:10:49

Application Reference No. : SMD/2021/0283
Site Address: Land at Baileys Bank Biddulph Staffordshire
Comments by: Dr A Cook Little Rock Equine Vets
From:

Lane Ends House
Clay Lake
Endon

Phone:
Email:
Submission: Support
Comments: To Whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of this planning application for a turnout area. The owners of this land have two ponies who have underlying health conditions where weight gain to more than the normal body condition score which is 3/5, could prove fatal.

Both of these ponies have Equine Metabolic Disease (EMS) which is one of the most common causes of Laminitis. Laminitis is where the feet become inflamed and in the worst cases, this causes the pedal bone to penetrate through the sole of the foot. This would result in the euthanasia of the horse or pony and this is why bouts of laminitis should be avoided at all costs.

Once horses have EMS, their body weight and fat has to be carefully managed for the rest of their lives. For a normal healthy horse the required amount of grazing to sustain them for a year is an acre, but with these EMS equines they need between 0.25 and 0.5 of an acre per calendar year to sustain them. If they have year round access to grass paddocks they are likely to consume more than intended which puts their health at risk, as episodes of laminitis are more likely to occur. If horses are given access to non-grass areas such as a school there is a significant risk they can ingest the rubber surface. The ingestion of this material can bring on impaction colic which again can be fatal due to their inability to vomit.

However, restricting access to open space can also have significant health implications for horses with EMS, so keeping them within a stable or a small area is also not ideal.

Mr and Mrs Smith maintain their horses to the best of their ability, but with the underlying health conditions of these animals and the facilities currently available this is proving difficult.

The best management option for these ponies would be to have a separate turnout area that was grass and sand/rubber free. Mr and Mrs Smith, discussed this plan with myself in depth, before they applied for planning permission and their proposed plan is in the best welfare interests of these animals and has my full support and backing. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself at the above address or phone number.

Yours sincerely

Dr Anna Michelle Cook

BVM&S MRCVS, Cert AVP (Equine Practice), Bsc Agriculture (Hons)

Director of Little Rock Equine Vets Ltd

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