

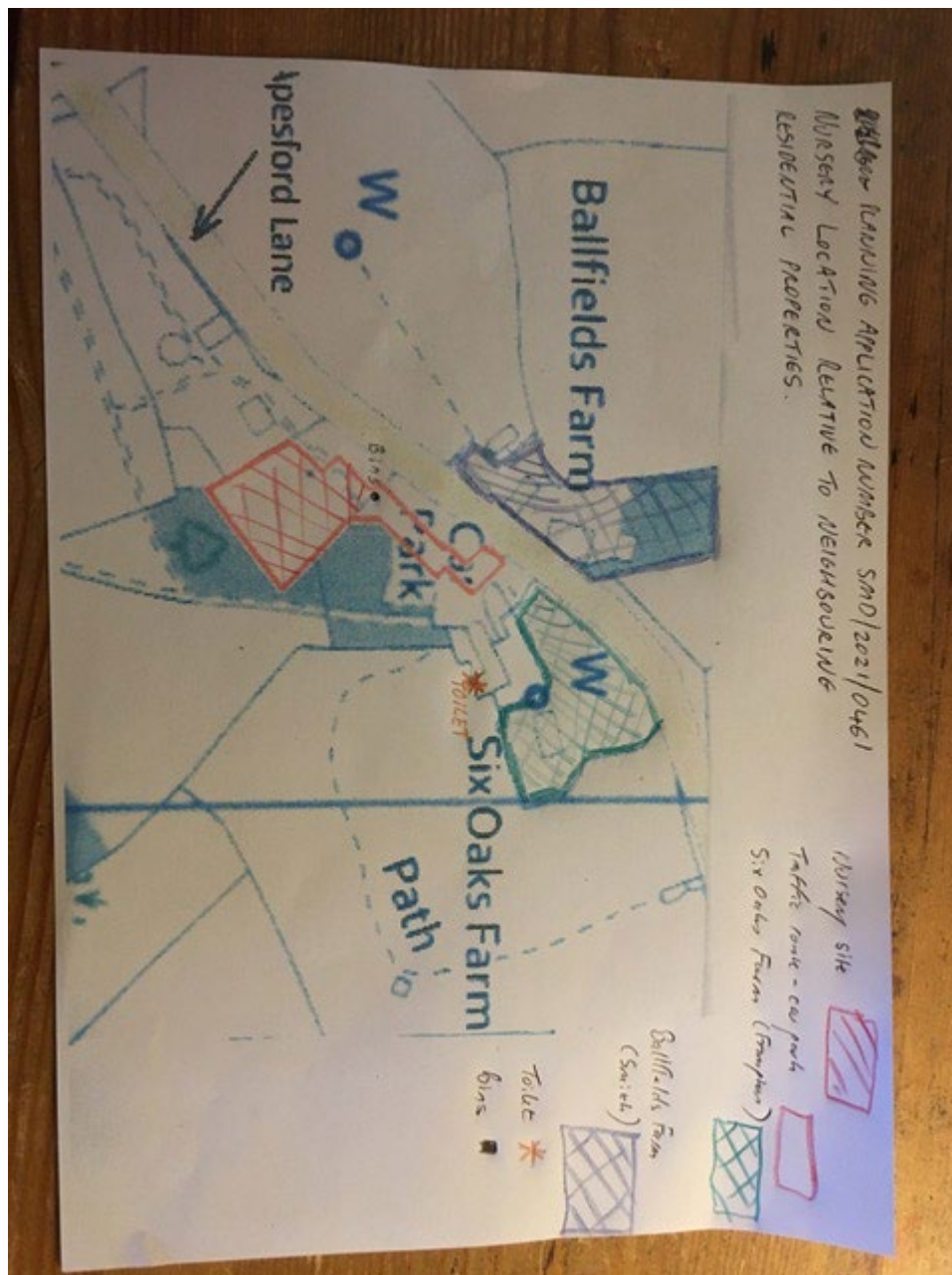
From: [Haywood, Ben](#)
To: [Malyon, Linda \(Cllr\)](#)
Cc: [Johnston, Christopher](#)
Subject: RE: Planning Application Forest School RSPB Coombes Valley
Date: 06 September 2021 11:03:19

From: Isabel Smith

Date: 1 September 2021 at 21:03:57 BST

To: "Malyon, Linda (Cllr)"

Subject: Planning Application Forest School RSPB Coombes Valley



Dear Linda ,

I understand from my neighbour Bess Frampton at Six Oaks farm that you are aware of the planning application;

Application Number SMD/2021/0461

Applicant's Name: Miss Kirsty Nelson

Location: Six Oaks Farm Apesford Lane Bradnop

Proposed Development: Amendment to Planning permission for Forest School Nursery on land at Coombes Valley RSPB Reserve.

Replacement of Bell Tent with wooden structure.

Retrospective planning permission for the replacement of a canvas canopy with a wooden structure.

Additional 15 children for 1 day per week

I received 3 copies of this application letter from SMDC for me to make my views concerning the proposal in writing or emailed to planning.

I strongly object to this proposal.

This Forest School Nursery was set up 2019, the original person, had a start up grant and RSPB Coombes Valley agreed to let out the land.

Planning permission was submitted to planning 04/09/2019,

Application number: SMD/2019/0547 'Proposed outdoor children's nursery on a piece of land owned by RSPB Coombes Valley which is currently unused. Proposed erection of 2 tents which will be pitched all year round and build a summerhouse approx. 14x10ft. proposed outdoor kitchen and a circle of large rocks for seating.' According to the application on the SMDC planning site the Application was withdrawn.

However the structures were put up. These structures are certainly not conducive to the reserve site, the RSPB themselves have structures in the reserve which are sympathetic to the nature of the reserve. The school has been operating since the withdrawn application in 2019. Early this year the school was closed for 6 weeks by OFSTED after a complaint was made by a parent following an accident. The school is now operating again and SMDC have received this recent retrospective planning application and are undertaking neighbour consultations.

Coombes Valley is designated as a SSSI (a Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and is protected under law. I am at a loss to understand why RSPB stated that the land the school is now using was unused, surely it is part of the Reserve landscape and was covered with trees and vegetation. I would like to know if a survey has been carried out to assess the potential damage to the area.

Since the 'school' has been running the peace and tranquility of this area has been ruined, it is indeed noisy. From the moment parents drop off their children at around 8am there is noise, fast entrance and exit of their cars from thoughtless parents, car doors slamming and children shouting and screaming. From opening time till closing time there is constant noise. I strongly object to 15 more children. Apesford Lane is a narrow, twisting, rural lane; extra traffic of 15 more cars delivering children to the school at opening time is not acceptable. For the past 10 years we have run a holiday cottage, and visitors stay for the quiet and tranquility that this area has, guests have commented that the area is noisy during the day

from the 'forest school' especially early in the morning.

This is a Nature Reserve in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The RSPB Coombes valley site quotes 'A peaceful discovery through stunning woodland, a palette of colours, sounds and textures'. The area is now spoiled in many ways by the present situation of this 'forest school', the area also marred by the presence in the RSPB carpark of 2 large, bright red rubbish containers for the use of the school. The school has no washing or toilet facilities, they use the RSPB visitors toilet and a chemical toilet housed in one of the tents which is then emptied into the RSPB visitors toilet, and thus into the RSPB septic tank. The school has also erected movement detector lighting by trees!!! The light has been permanently on at times and shines directly into my bedroom, I did complain about the light to the previous owner of the school and she promised to do something about this. I understand that ownership of the school has changed and there are frequent changes of staff.

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