
From:
Sent: 10 September 2021 12:16
To:)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Application Reference No. : SMD/2021/0461 Site Address: Six Oaks Farm Apesford Lane Bradnop Staffordshire ST13 7EU Leek Comments by: Frampton

From:

Six Oaks Farm
Apesford Road
Bradnop
Leek
Staffordshire
ST13 7EU

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: Response to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council regarding planning application amendment

Application number SMD/2021/0461

10th September 2021

Having read the above application, we object to the proposal for the Forest School Nursery to expand by an additional fifteen children for one day a week. We also object to the picnic shelter proposal. Our objections are on the grounds of noise and disturbance. The nursery site is located in a nature reserve, most of which is SSSI designated. This is a place for people to come for quiet enjoyment of the countryside and wildlife, and for birds, animals and insects to thrive in a peaceful, natural environment.

Since Flying High Forest School Nursery began operating, we, as close neighbours, have experienced considerable disruptive noise disturbance. The general near-unremitting noise of the daily operation from the nursery site is normally very noticeable from our property. There does not seem to be the will to operate in a reasonably quiet manner. There is much screaming, squealing and shouting from opening time onwards from the children, and also the cheering voices of the nursery staff. The nature of this noise and disturbance is intrusive and impossible to ignore. Their initial application suggested they would be self-contained within their site. In reality, the nursery make regular use of the RSPB toilet block, which is located adjacent to our property, which can bring the noise even closer.

On a number of occasions we have contacted the RSPB Site Manager, Rob Atkinson, for assistance with reducing the noise. We communicate via the RSPB manager, by telephone and email, as an initial direct communication with the nursery was met with a dismissive response that she was not going to ask the children to be quiet. We check that it is noise associated with the nursery before contacting the RSPB manager. It is noticeably quieter during the evenings and weekends, when the nursery is closed, which is a relief.

The noise is particularly noticeable to us when the children are at the nearest point of the nursery site, which is the north east / eastern edge. We note the proposed picnic shelter will be located in this area. We object to this location for the picnic shelter, as it will focus more activity in the area where the disturbance is nearest to us. The picnic shelter structure is not fully enclosed, so will have no sound insulation.

It is likely that additional children will cause further disturbance. We note the stated intention to spend much time further into the reserve, but with their facilities at the base location, anticipate that they will be present at the nursery site often. Rather than permit additional children, we are asking of you that the nursery be reminded that when working at their existing capacity and location, they should not create noise nuisance and disturbance to

adjacent properties. It is already unpleasantly noisy with the currently permitted number of children. The noise and disturbance would inevitably increase significantly with the additional children.

The increased traffic generated by the nursery is noticeable, and the speed of approach can make our shared access to the narrow Apesford Road, which is on a blind bend, feel less safe.

We note the mention in the application that their structures blend into the environment and are invisible from the neighbouring properties. The existing structures are visible from our property. Additionally, the nursery's large bright red waste bins in the RSPB car park are very noticeable and unattractive. No effort has been made to reduce the visual impact by appropriate housing or siting. We would ask they be either screened or relocated, as they are an unpleasant sight. There have also been a number of occasions when the nursery lighting has been left on for long periods after dark, causing light pollution.

To summarise, we do not consider this location to be suitable for such a noisy and disturbing operation, and expansion will only exacerbate this. We object to the expansion element of this amendment to planning permission, and to the location of the picnic shelter. We further request you rule on whether the existing nursery operations comply with their statements in the earlier planning applications.

We have no comment on the retrospective permission for the replacement of a canvas canopy with a wooden structure.

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