

From: planningcomments@staffs-moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 04 October 2022 23:40:17

Application Reference No. : SMD/2021/0536

Site Address: Land at Barnfields Industrial Estate Sunnyhills Road Leek Staffordshire ST13 5RJ

Comments by: Alison SmedleyThe Inland Waterways Association

From:

Hazelhurst Cottage
Huntley Road
Denford
Leek
Staffs
ST13 7JT

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: Further comments from IWA North Staffordshire & South Cheshire Branch on:

SMD/2021/0536 - Land at Barnfields Industrial Estate, Sunnyhills Road, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 5RJ

The Inland Waterways Association (IWA) is the membership charity that works to protect and restore the country's 7000 miles of canals and navigable rivers. IWA is a national organisation with a network of volunteers and branches who deploy their expertise and knowledge to work constructively with navigation authorities, local and national government and other organisations.

Further to the additional documents submitted on this scheme, and the invitation from SMDC to comment further, IWA North Staffordshire & South Cheshire Branch continues to object to this planning application because the new documentation does not reflect the Recommendations passed by SMDC's Planning Committee on 12th May 2022, to remove the obligation to construct a marina. Specifically, the plans still propose an unsuitable 2.1m high fence around the site of the marina/basin (ref drawings 03 Boundary Treatment Layout and 04 Boundary Treatment Details).

Waterways can contribute to the economic development of an area; by improving the physical and mental health of the local population through opportunities for exercise, holidays and recreation which in turn creates financial benefits to local economies through tourism, employment and regeneration.

The current terminus of the Leek Arm of the Caldon Canal is under-used and little visited, due to the lack of facilities and limited turning space. The proposed marina/basin would (when eventually built) resolve this and bring many more waterborne visitors to the town, but the opportunities will be missed if it is enclosed by a 2.1 high security fence of an inappropriate appearance for a canal setting.

When the basin is eventually built it will be a more welcoming place (and therefore create more of the economic benefits mentioned above) if there is open access around the basin from the canal towpath and the housing development. We would urge SMDC to ensure that this inappropriate aspect of the overall scheme's design is not included in the final planning consent.

Do you really need to print out this Email? Be green - keep it on the screen.

This email is intended for the addressee(s) only and may contain sensitive, privileged or confidential information that could be protectively marked. If you are not the addressee please do not use the information in any way. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system. Thank you.

The Council may be required to disclose this email or any responses to it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The way in which we handle personal information is set out in our privacy notice and is available at <https://www.staffs Moorlands.gov.uk/YourData>
