The Coal Authority

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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For the Attention of: Lisa Li – Case Officer
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

[By Email: planning@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk]

29th September 2023

Dear Ms Li

PLANNING APPLICATION: SMD/2023/0320

Proposed new entrance porch with new side bifolds to paddock; Dilhorne Recreation Centre, New Road, Dilhorne

Thank you for your consultation notification of 12 September 2023 seeking the views of The Coal Authority on the above planning application.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, The Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

The Coal Authority Response: **Material Consideration**

I have reviewed the site location plans and the proposals and supporting information submitted and available to view on the LPA website and can confirm that the site falls within the defined Development High Risk Area.

The Coal Authority records indicate that the site lies in an area of probable unrecorded underground coal mine workings at shallow depth. If shallow workings are present then those may pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety.

We note that this application has been accompanied by a Coal Mining Risk Assessment report (23 2607) prepared by Sladen Associates, dated August 2023. The report has been based upon a review Coal Authority data and geological information, and concludes that possible unrecorded workings pose a very low risk to the site. Therefore the report author goes on to comment that no additional intrusive investigation is considered necessary to mitigate the risks associated with potential shallow mine workings.

Notwithstanding the above, we acknowledge that the nature of the proposed porch structure is relatively small scale and is not likely to require substantial foundations or groundworks.

In light of the above, the Coal Authority's Planning & Development Team wishes to raise **no objection** to this planning application. However, we do recommend that, should planning permission be granted for this proposal, the following wording is included as an Informative Note on any planning permission issued:

Informative Note

The proposed development lies within an area that has been defined by the Coal Authority as containing coal mining features at surface or shallow depth. These features may include: mine entries (shafts and adits); shallow coal workings; geological features (fissures and break lines); mine gas and former surface mining sites. Although such features are seldom readily visible, they can often be present and problems can occur, particularly as a result of new development taking place.

Any form of development over or within the influencing distance of a mine entry can be dangerous and raises significant land stability and public safety risks. As a general precautionary principle, the Coal Authority considers that the building over or within the influencing distance of a mine entry should be avoided. In exceptional circumstance where this is unavoidable, expert advice must be sought to ensure that a suitable engineering design which takes into account all the relevant safety and environmental risk factors, including mine gas and mine-water. Your attention is drawn to the Coal Authority Policy in relation to new development and mine entries available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-on-or-within-the-influencing-distance-of-mine-entries

Under the Coal Industry Act 1994 any intrusive activities which disturb or enter any coal seams, coal mine workings or coal mine entries (shafts and adits) require the prior written permission of the Coal Authority since these activities can have serious public health and safety implications. Such activities could include site investigation boreholes, excavations for foundations, piling activities, other ground works and any

subsequent treatment of coal mine workings and coal mine entries for ground stability purposes. Failure to obtain permission to enter or disturb our property will result in the potential for court action. Application forms for Coal Authority permission and further guidance can be obtained from The Coal Authority's website at: www.gov.uk/get-a-permit-to-deal-with-a-coal-mine-on-your-property

Shallow coal seams
In areas where shallow coal seams are present caution should be taken when carrying out any on site burning or heat focused activities.

If any coal mining features are unexpectedly encountered during development, this should be reported immediately to the Coal Authority on 0800 288 4242. Further information is available on the Coal Authority website at: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Woodcock | BSc (Hons)
Assistant Planning and Development Manager

Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by The Coal Authority as a Statutory Consultee and is based upon the latest available data on the date of the response, and electronic consultation records held by The Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based upon only the information provided to The Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or has been published on the Council's website for consultation purposes in relation to this specific planning application. The views and conclusions contained in this response may be subject to review and amendment by The Coal Authority if additional or new data/information (such as a revised Coal Mining Risk Assessment) is provided by the Local Planning Authority or the Applicant for consultation purposes.

In formulating this response The Coal Authority has taken full account of the professional conclusions reached by the competent person who has prepared the Coal Mining Risk Assessment or other similar report. In the event that any future claim for liability arises in relation to this development The Coal Authority will take full account of the views,

conclusions and mitigation previously expressed by the professional advisers for this development in relation to ground conditions and the acceptability of development.