
From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
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To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2025/0220 Site Address: Gorsty Hill Farm Gorsty Hill Road Upper Tean
Staffordshire ST10 4EL Stoke-On-Trent Comments by: Karen Atkinson ACIINFU

From:

Mutual House
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Phone:

Email: Submission: Support

Comments:

Planning Ref: SMD/2025/0220

9th June 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Having read through the planning statement and reviewed the previous refusal reasons, I am writing in support of this application.

I have known the applicants for over 15 years and have served as their farming insurance agent throughout this period. During this time, I can confirm that Mr. has consistently engaged in cattle rearing, timber processing, and log sales at Gorsty Hill Farm. His dedication to working the land and preserving his late uncle's legacy is evident.

The challenges of managing a livestock farm must be acknowledged, as it demands round-the-clock attention, seven days a week. However, given the farm's limited size of 65 acres, it cannot generate a sustainable income solely through traditional agricultural operations. Consequently, diversification into log sales has been crucial in preserving its viability as an agricultural enterprise, supporting the new infrastructure which has significantly improved cattle welfare and working practices.

For the past 15 years, log sales have been an integral part of the business, ensuring that approval of this application does not introduce any additional impact on the highway. The sustainability of the lane remains unaffected, continuing to accommodate heavy farm machinery, livestock carriers, and general farm deliveries, as well as the importation of timber by Mr. Furthermore, the timber is sourced from environmentally responsible and sustainable suppliers, and the site is maintained through the natural air drying of the logs. The local community also benefits from nearby deliveries, which help reduce transportation distances and minimize environmental impact.

I also supported the application for the replacement of the dilapidated barns, which had reached the end of their economic life and were deemed structurally unstable, uninsurable and unsuitable for modern farming practices. The new steel-framed, timber-clad building has significantly improved the farm's visual appeal, and I fail to see how the partial use of the structure for log storage could cause the previously stated harm. The justification for its agricultural necessity remains valid, and it continues to serve predominantly agricultural purposes.

I firmly believe that this application is essential for ensuring the long-term viability of British farming and its continued contribution to the agricultural sector.

Your sincerely

Karen Atkinson ACII

Chartered Insurer and NFU Group Secretary

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