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

Categories:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2025/0360 Site Address: Oakleys Farm Little Blakeley Lane Farm Blakeley Lane
Dilhorne Staffordshire ST10 2PT Stoke On Trent Comments by: Stewart Bagnall

From:

Richmore Hall
Richmore Hill
Dilhorne
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffs
ST10 2PR

Phone:

Email: Submission: Support

Comments: I writing to support the above application.

It has been obvious that the applicant has stretched many of the rules with previous developments and for the record I am in no way excusing or supporting any previous breaches of planning matters. But despite that I believe it is right and fair that each application is viewed and taken on its own merits.

This application is being made for a substantially large building but its size appears to be supported by its needs to house the applicants herd of organically fed water buffaloes.

As a nearby neighbour, it is very obvious to myself that these animals exist, and I have personally witnessed the substantial growth of the herd size over the years.

At this point I should probably admit to an interest as my family farm does supply much of the applicants organically grown winter feed crops, which has been an extremely important source of income for our own farming business.

So to move on.

I do accept that the farm acreage on the applicants holding is not large which does highlight this application, but that in many ways might well help to justify the need for the large size of the building within the application.

I do know that the applicant is a very young farmer and that he has bought into his farming business rather than as most of the more established farming businesses which tend to be inherited farms.

Not surprisingly he will have found it very difficult to have purchased large sways of land !

So for that reason it's not surprising that the applicant seems to farm an intensive farming type business.

But I do not know of any rules that forbids farmers within the UK to operate as an intensive farming operation and thus does not and should not exclude smaller farmers from providing high quality comfortable accommodation for their livestock to enable them to feed our nation with food.

It is an obvious fact that the Moorlands is an area of the country where the farms tend to be much smaller in size than many other counties so the consequences of that is we do have far more individual farms within our area which in order to operate obviously need buildings to operate from, but although it could be argued that these buildings can adversely affect the openness of the countryside I believe it can also be argued that they often add greater interest to our landscapes !

I personally think that we should make efforts to encourage and support local farms and particularly the younger farmers so that we become less reliant on lessor controlled imported foods,

or alternatively we abandon yet another of our vital industries and give away yet more of our heritage along with our country's wealth and food security !

Yours sincerely

Stewart Bagnall.

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