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

Categories:

Application Reference No. : DET/2025/0035 Site Address: Willowshaw Farm Cloudside Congleton Staffordshire
CW12 3QQ Congleton Comments by: William & Jane Weston

From:
Hillcrest
Cloudside
Cloudside
Congleton
Staffordshire
CW12 3QG

Phone:

Email: Submission: Objection

Comments: The development is located just before a blind bend to the North followed by a road junction immediately afterwards. To the South there is another road junction immediately after the blind corner before the lane (a particularly narrow stretch) leads up to Beat Lane. Cloudside is a narrow country lane with a shooting range on it and public access to The Cloud. It is signed as being unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles.

Currently traffic generated by the farm itself is very modest as the very large barn appears to be mostly empty and the house seems to be in single occupation.

The proposed development would significantly increase traffic on the lane. Parking and access points would be increased and cars parking on the new development would inevitably be manoeuvring onto and off the site immediately on top of a blind bend. A passing point for vehicles would also be removed. Traffic has been increasing steadily on Cloudside due to various factors notably the increase in visitors walking on The Cloud, the increasing popularity of the route for cyclists, and more recently the change of use of a house to holiday business, the restoration of a National Trust owned farmhouse and the development of the Avon camping site where access has been improved recently. These are all new factors since planning permission was last considered.

The potential for an accident occurring has increased. when I drive along this bend currently it is already a serious hazard.

For the above reasons we wish to object to the scale and nature of the development and ask that it be rejected.

Secondly the proposed development is out of scale for the very rural position of Willowshaw Farm. There would be no objection to the conversion of the existing old barn to residential use, but to add an additional development of

this number of dwellings at this point on a small rural lane in open countryside is completely out of scale. The pattern of development along the lane is largely of scattered houses and farms. There are currently no developments of this number of dwellings anywhere along the lane. If this development were to be approved it could set an undesirable precedent and be out of keeping with the deeply rural nature and beauty of the countryside.

For this reason we also object to the application.

Finally for a location of this prominence the design quality should aim to set a high standard which it does not.

Please further note that proper notification of this application has not been served. Notices do not appear to have been put in place. There seems to have been no notice on the site boundary for the required period on the public highway adjacent to the house or barn. a notice appeared for a short period on Friday 3rd October, but by Sunday afternoon 5th October it had been removed. The public consultation should be re-started and the decision delayed by the appropriate period.

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