

Steve Dawson
Sneyd Arms Farm
Basford Green
Leek

OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION SMD/2024/0077

Thank you for the opportunity to further comment on this application following the receipt of the notification.

Firstly, I wanted to inform the Planning Office that a public notice doesn't appear to have been placed at the location.

Whilst most of my comments have been included with everyone else's in our joint Community Objection, there are a couple of specific points that I would like to make.

When we were considering applying for planning permission for the shed here at Sneyd Arms Farm, we met with the neighbours including the applicant to discuss our thoughts. The site that we chose had access, water, was previously rough dumping ground but more importantly, was completely hidden from view from their property and the other properties on their estate. In order to ensure this, before the shed was constructed, we spent a lot of time and money lowering the ground and we kept the overall height to 4.6m, so that it was completely screened from their properties including all the listed buildings by the boundary hedge. 4.6m was plenty high enough for the massive tractors and trailers to reverse in and tip all the hardcore and MOT for the floors (see below), as well as concrete trucks to reverse in to shoot the concrete.



Also, the shed was to be used for housing sheep, lambing etc. so absolutely no noise, vibration, dust, fire risk, vehicle movements etc. The shed at Sneyd Arms Farm has absolutely no impact on the applicant or their properties and we went to great lengths to ensure this.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said for the applicant or this application. The community only found out that the application had been submitted, as it appeared on the Parish Council Agenda. No public notices were put up, no letters from the council had been sent to the neighbouring properties but more importantly, the applicant didn't find it inside themselves to come and discuss their plans with any members of the community. This is the same for all their other applications that impact us. We can only imagine that they didn't discuss this application with us because they knew that it wouldn't be agreed and why would it? We really struggle to understand the applicant's motivation here. Why would they want to put an enormous shed that will tower above its surroundings bang in the middle of our hamlet? Why in the first application didn't they include an access track? Why was the original application so vague and lacking details? Why have they stated that it will be for agricultural use when it is proposed for storing woodchip for commercial use? There are so many questions for an application that makes no sense.

Over and above the ridiculous height and size of the proposed shed is its use. Why do they need to store woodchip in this location which doesn't have access etc. when they already have a woodchip store that they only constructed about 7 years ago perfectly located between the two biomass boilers and has existing access that has been used by articulated lorries for years? Is it because they don't want it there for all the reasons that we have set out in our objections to this proposal? Have they thought that they no longer want it near to the hall, so they would put it as far away as they can on their boundary without any thought or consideration of the impact on the other residents etc?

I thought it was a bit strange that all these dead trees started appearing a couple of years ago on the other side of the hedge. The pile kept growing and growing over several months into the enormous mound that is there now. The applicant has said as part of the application that the proposed shed will only be used for storing woodchip and no woodchipping would take place at the shed. So why did they spend months bringing felled trees to this inaccessible location only to have to move them again to be chipped? How are they going to move them when there is no access to where they are? Will they spend weeks / months having to move them again by tractor and trailer or will they just be left there to rot away?

I have so many concerns and reasons to object to this application, not only because of the visual impact but because the proposed shed will take all the light away from our boundary hedge and trees and eventually kill them, the fire risk as in the applicants own words the stored woodchip can self-combust and risks burning down the hedge, tree, my shed, not to mention my sheep! It will inevitably create significant dust, it will create vibration and of course it will create noise. Noise from the continual vehicle movements of their noisy loadall continually going back wards and forwards fetching woodchip for the biomass boilers, noise from the vehicles bringing felled trees and or woodchip to replenish the stock and the deafening noise from the woodchipping process that will be clearly take place there and will be heard from miles away!

In our opinion, there is absolutely no sense or case for this application and other options including locations need to be explored. One could be that they lease or buy a shed on an industrial estate as this is where this sort of building and its use would be more suited.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this application