From:
To: DCAdmin
Subject: planning application 2019/90988
Date: 28 November 2019 15:05:27

Reference: Planning application 2019/90988

Proposal: Use of land for camping provision

Location: Land adjacent Lock 38, Marsden lane, Marsden HD7 6AF

I have previously raised my objections to the proposal and am now responding to the recent updating of the proposal and additional documentation provided.

As a general comment, there is little of substance in the updated proposal that satisfactorily addresses the concerns already raised, and the amended proposal and additional documentation raise some new concerns. I would summarise the outstanding concerns, new and old, under a number of banner headings:

- Health and safety issues

Important health and safety issues are raised by the inadequacy of facilities provided for occupants (e.g. limited toilet facilities, lack of water supply, low lighting level). Other hazards are related to relatively easy public access to the site, proximity to open water, the allowing of bonfires etc. This sits alongside concerns arising from the lack of a staff presence on the site to respond to potential incidents/issues that might arise.

- Public nuisance

This refers to the negative impact on residents of the neighbouring area connected to the potential for public nuisance related to increased traffic, noise, smoke from fires etc. Again, while the proposal refers to restrictions that will be put in place to help mitigate nuisance, there is no concrete addressing of how conformity to the restrictions will be ensured. A continuing omission is a clear statement of how the day-to-day management and supervision of the site will be implemented.

- Negative impact on wildlife

The potential negative impact on wildlife is highlighted in the report of the Kirklees council biodiversity officer. The officer states that 'the proposals would result in significant harm to the bat population' and, in conflict with policy, harm the 'function and connectivity' of the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network. On the basis of the above impacts, the officer does not support the proposal.

- Inappropriateness of the site for its intended purpose

There is a basic conflict at the heart of this proposal. Development of the site that has already taken place has led to a deterioration of the natural environment in terms of the felling of trees and the clearing of areas for parking and paths. The report of the biodiversity officer highlights the potential negative impact on wildlife of any further development. The provision of electric charging points, lighting, parking facilities and passing places etc., while addressing legitimate concerns, all have potential to further erode the site's appropriateness for bushcraft activity and immersion in nature. They would also seem inappropriate to land designated as green belt.

Overall, in the light of these continuing concerns, I would like to reaffirm my objection, and would wish to attend any meetings concerning this proposal