Planning Justification Statement

In respect of a New Farm Building
at Fletcherhouse Farm, Almondbury

Client:
Mr R Airey
Fletcherhouse Farm,
Lumb Lane,
Almondbury,
Huddersfield,
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Produced By
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Ref: HRS/DT/2392

PLANNING JUSTIFICATION STATEMENT

Instructions

Instructions were received from Mr R Airey to consider the proposal for a new farm building at Fletcherhouse Farm, Almondbury.

1.0 Farm Assessment

1.1 Current Operations

The applicant established his farming enterprise a number of years ago, starting off by renting a small block of land in the locality. He has gradually expanded the business by acquiring additional blocks of land and around 2 years ago, he purchased the holding known as Fletcherhouse Farm.

The applicant operates a grass-based livestock enterprise which revolves around the rearing of store cattle. Calves are purchased at approximately 3 months old and are reared on home-grown grass and forage until around 2 years old when they are sold as finished cattle. In addition to the cattle enterprise, the applicant grazes sheep across the land during the winter months.

1.2 Land

The applicant farms approximately 119.22 acres (48.24 ha) in total; they own approximately 11.36 acres which immediately surrounds the farm steading at Fletcherhouse Farm and they let the remainder of land from other local farmers. The land is all permanent grassland and is managed to maximise grazing productivity through a lower input system.

1.3 Buildings

Fletcherhouse Farm comprises a range of traditional stone barns which are used for the storage of small agricultural equipment, vet and med, etc. The stone buildings have limited internal space to house livestock or larger farm machinery.

There are some more modern farm buildings which are used for housing and feeding cattle during the winter months and for storage of machinery. Other infrastructure includes a silage clamp and manure store.

1.4 Objectives

The farming business has expanded over recent years having acquired additional land and made a significant investment in the new farm steading at Fletcherhouse Farm. The applicant would like to erect new livestock buildings and undertake other yard improvements including the replacement of concrete at Fletcherhouse Farm. This will allow the business to increase their stock numbers and better manage the farm steading.

The applicant's main objective is to continue to expand the farming business and ensure its longevity.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 Description of Proposal

The application seeks permission for a new farm building to house cattle which will be located to the east of the farm steading, adjacent to the existing cattle and straw shed. The proposal will utilise the existing access via the farm driveway and through the farmyard.

2.2 Reasons for Proposal

The applicant houses all calves up to 4 months old. Older calves and cattle are put out to pasture throughout spring/summer and then all cattle are housed for around 6 months during winter to minimise waterlogging and compaction across the holding.

There is currently insufficient housing for the current stock numbers on the holding. The applicant is looking to gradually increase the number of calves purchased which means there is a requirement for a new livestock shed.

2.3 Suitability of Proposal

The steel portal frame design allows for quick and easy construction and provides a safe housing area clear of internal divides.

The use of concrete panels provides a strong supporting structure which can contain livestock and manure whilst excluding people. Concrete is also easily cleaned to allow for hygienic conditions.

Yorkshire board timber cladding allows for ventilation while preventing much of the prevailing weather entering the building. The construction is cost effective and provides secure storage.

Tin roof sheets offer a durable material for agricultural buildings and an economical construction.

D Tilley

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