

**Planning application 49/19/0059 - Formation of helipad on land located south of New Road, (B3227), Wiveliscombe (retention of works already undertaken)**

This application has been submitted as a standalone application, but it is clearly linked to another retrospective application (49/19/0062) for variation of condition no. 02 (approved plans) of application 49/18/0024 on land and former agricultural barn located south of New Road (B3227), Wiveliscombe.

As Ward Councillor, I object to this new application and ask for additional details to be submitted so it can be properly assessed.

As it appears the helipad application is linked to the revised application for the shooting facility, a single application should be submitted so that the full plans for the site can be considered together. This appears not to be a discrete proposal but part of the wider plan for the site.

As the application is retrospective, impacts are already starting to be seen. Instead of a small number of vehicles on the road, as was stated in the original application (49/18/0024), there are one and sometimes two helicopters flying low into the 'shooting facility' over or near to the town of Wiveliscombe. This did not occur before and is new in the last year. These low-flying helicopters cause a substantial disturbance to residents in Wiveliscombe, which should not be allowed. In my view, regular helicopter flights are not acceptable in this location, but if they are to be permitted then strict controls are required on the number and timings allowed, as well as on the impact from noise and disturbance to local residents.

No information has been provided by the applicants on the current or future planned use of the helipad. Information in the previously approved application appears misleading as there was no mention of helicopters being used for access to the site.

The previous access appraisal does not mention the helipad or use of helicopters and instead states (2.1.3):

“Typically, this will result in a convoy of shooters with approximately four or five vehicles, and a truck/minibus transporting the beaters. Another vehicle may be used to transport those preparing lunches, although this is also likely to form part of the car sharing. It is therefore assumed that six vehicles will be used on each shoot

session, with a seventh arriving in the AM and departing in the PM to account for the potential for lunch preparation.”\*

The original and new application also provide no details on the impact of the shoot itself, which the helipad appears to facilitate. Previously, there was a small amount of occasional shooting in the area, which could be heard from homes in the Western and Southern parts of Wiveliscombe. Since the 'shooting facility' has been built the shooting is more frequent, sustained and intrusive. No description or assessment of the impact of this shooting close to a residential area has been provided, including from noise.

The Council needs to ensure the full and true intentions are revealed and that an application is submitted which allows the Council the control expected and allowed by planning law. New environmental assessments need to be provided for the impacts of this application, including from the shoot. The appraisal and statement previously supplied cannot rightly apply due to omissions and the substantial changes made in the building of the shoot facility.

\* Repeated in 3.7 of the Planning Support Statement submitted with the original application.

Cllr Dave Mansell

Wiveliscombe and District Ward - Somerset West and Taunton Council

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020