

Liv Rickman

From: Mrs I Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 August 2022 14:29
To: Planning (Isles of Scilly)
Subject: Planning application Representation

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Application P/22/056/COU

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to object to the Planning application for a change of use of land for the siting of a mobile hot food takeaway unit and land rover (with generator) on Holgates Green.

I would like to stress that I'm not opposed to this van, but am strongly opposed to it being sited in this conservation area of outstanding natural beauty, which has long been a place for people to sit in peaceful surroundings, enjoying the harbour views.

The applicant is at present trading on the Green without planning permission, but with the agreement of the Council. I ask myself what sort of precedent does this set. I do not think that an individual should be allowed to apply for change of use of Council owned land. This could open the floodgates for other food vans to be put on the Green and Upper Strand, especially if the Town Hall extension goes ahead, taking away the sites for the Chip van and Pom's Thai food van.

I do not agree that the negative impact is minimal. The van and land rover take up a substantial area of the Green. In hot weather many people (school parties in particular) sit under the trees for shade. On windy days they go there for shelter. This would mean sitting in a confined space between the trees and the landrover, next to the constant noise of the generator which, although not loud, is definitely noticeable. The vehicles are directly in front of our kitchen and bedroom windows, as well as guest houses and self catering businesses - and surrounded by listed buildings. The van will be removed at the end of the day, which means it will be in front of these properties and taking up space on the Green from March to October (and possibly in the winter) up to 8.5 hours a day, 6 days a week. It will bring inevitable odour, noise, litter and increased problems with gulls.

With regard to public safety, the access to be used by these vehicles is often blocked by parked cars (it is after all a car/bus parking area). In this case the owner would have to get access further along the street, which would entail towing the van between the benches used by locals, families, visitors and school parties. If permanent access across the pavement was given, it would block a much needed parking space.

In wet weather these two vehicles turning on and off the Green will churn up the grass and we are told that if this happens a grid would be put across the Green, possibly a concrete one, at the Council's expense. I feel the money could be better spent on developing a more suitable site rather than spoiling the look of a lovely recreation area.

I understand that in the height of the summer it has been difficult for people to find a table in a restaurant and for this reason I believe the Council should find a less contentious site for this van. I have spoken to many visitors who have been dismayed by the idea of food vans on Holgates Green and potentially Upper Strand and say that this is against the very reason they come to scilly and they would consider not returning. This would be equally damaging to the tourism industry.

The Green is used for many local activities, such as gig weekends, Otillo, fun events etc. and this would restrict the available space.

These are my objections to the siting of the van on Holgates Green - which is mentioned in your Conservation Statement as one of only three grassed areas on St. Mary's where people can sit enjoying the quiet.

Yours faithfully

Isobel Brown
Tredavoe Cottage
Lower Strand
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