

For the attention of the Planning Department

Dear Sirs

We write to object to the change of use at Holgates Green for the siting of a mobile hot food take-away unit with accompanying Land Rover and generator.

Holgates Green and Lower Strand are areas of great environmental importance and unrivalled views. Adjoining Higher Strand is a Grade II listed area of historical value of which Holgates Green forms an integral part offering a green space for locals and visitors to use and enjoy, without hindrance from fast food vehicles.

Local property owners, holiday rentals, businesses, etc., never considered the possibility of having fast food vehicles in front of or around their properties. Noise, smell, litter and an increased number of vermins and seagulls are all negative consequences regulated by legal restrictions which the Council needs to comply with and maintain. Would others like food vans in front of their homes? We think not.

Encouraging more use of these types of vehicles is not a way of supporting ongoing environmental efforts on St Mary's and the use of greener vehicles.

The development of the Town Hall is not yet assured so setting this precedence now is perhaps not needed. The redevelopment plans should either include allowance for the existing food vans to remain in their current location or the enhancement of new space, possibly by digging out a lay-by from the grass banks next to Porthcressa Tourist Office. This could result in wonderful new opportunities for Hugh Town and St Mary's.

St Mary's needs investment and support for enterprises to provide high quality foods and from the right commercial premises thereby meeting the demands of visitors and locals alike. Visitors don't necessarily want fast food vehicles as their Scilly experience. The current provisions from Scilly Fish and Pom Thai are good examples of the right type of enterprise in the right location. Developing this location to offer more is probably sustainable. Creating a new location on Holgates Green is one way of creating a new issue that would ruin the existing ability for locals and visitors to use this space as a peaceful meeting area, to admire the beauty of the Harbour and unrivalled views across the sound towards Samson, Bryher and Tresco.

We ask you to consider this carefully. Thank you.

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