

Liv Rickman

From: Ico Pehlivanov [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 August 2022 10:20
To: Planning (Isles of Scilly)
Subject: Fwd: Application number: P/22/056/COU

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in support of planning application P/22/056/COU for Martyn and Lily Smalley. I am local to the islands and therefore wish to explain my reasons for the support of the takeaway van (and landrover with generator).

Gradually throughout the past couple of years the islands have seen an influx of tourists leaning towards 'stay-cations' since covid times, rather than holidaying abroad. All of the islands on Scilly have been grateful for this increased tourism as a whole, after so long struggling through lockdowns along with the rest of the U.K. We, however, are lucky that in the summer and shoulder seasons we get an abundance of visitors to support our local community through tourism. This is vital for us as a small community. As appreciative we are for this tourism, unfortunately, staff is becoming harder and harder to find, whether that being due to the high demand for roles such as chefs, or the issue with housing staff on the islands, and there have been several closures/limits on the currently existing options for food venues. This has in turn put a strain on St Mary's in particular being the largest populated island, with many guests not being able to get a hot meal in the evenings due to the limited number of venues, or the available venues being booked up weeks, if not months, in advance. The tourists that do not have access to kitchen facilities, have been known on several occasions to rely then on a sandwich from the local supermarket as a substitute dinner. This is not a very enticing factor for the beautiful, paradise island, potentially losing returning or future guests in turn. Therefore, encouraging and supporting a small business venture that is just starting up, and proven so popular already, is vital, with Lily wanting to make a living in a career she is passionate and hard-working at.

The online response to Lily's takeaway has been superb - with so many positive comments regarding the food, location, and work ethic. I find it such a shame that a small few are trying to deter this from going ahead.

I do understand the small amount of concerns for the grass being 'churned up' - which would be an issue perhaps if trading took place on wet days. However, the takeaway van does not trade on bad weather days, and precautions can be made to avoid this, like they would consider when hosting events on the mainland on a grassy area - black protective matting laid down to drive the vehicle on and off the grass is just one of the potential solutions.

With there being no access to electricity on site, Martyn has taken into account the noise from the generator and adapted the landrover with sound-proofing materials/additional internal hatch, and having been stood on Holgates Green only 2-3 metres from the landrover whilst ordering food from the van, I could not hear a sound from the generator. The fact that its also pointed away from any buildings adds to this consideration.

The green with the benches and outdoor seating at Holgates is a large space and the van and landrover take up such a little amount of a section in the corner of this area, that it is not offensive at all. I agree, you cannot please everyone, but things do change and it is vital that we do not turn another small business away because of a small percentage of negative views. Offering places to trade such as the industrial estate has been tried by previous small takeaway venues and proven to be unsuccessful based there on the basis of the poor location. Whereas Holgates Green is a central hub of the island, where both locals and tourists have access to easily, with outside seating so nearby, and of course the famous Scilly seaside view.

I think it is also important to note that this application is for Lily's takeaway van, and not the other local vans on the islands, which a few people I think are advising against the application basing it on all 3 food venues potentially coming to the Holgates green. Currently, the other 2 vans are situated behind the Town Hall, and if/when the time comes to evaluate their positioning, that is judged as a completely separate application at that time. Please take into account all of the above and I wish all the best for Lily's takeaway van.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Hristo Pehlivanov
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