

From: [Isobel Brown](#)
To: [Planning \(Isles of Scilly\)](#)
Subject: Holgates Green
Date: 25 June 2023 11:53:56

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Planning Application P/23?036/COU
Change of use of land for the siting of a mobile food takeaway unit

We are writing to object to the above planning application

We are fully aware that the islands need to keep up with the times, but most importantly we need to maintain the beauty and tranquillity which draws people back year after year. This means protecting our scenic areas and green spaces, of which Holgates Green is one. Which is why we can't understand why the Council insist on pushing to ruin this beautiful, peaceful picnic area by allowing food takeaway vans on it.

The environmental and safety reasons for refusal of the application last year have not changed: 'Holgates Green is a designated recreational site for use of the public. Set up and operational requirements would give rise to harm to the historic environment and is not offset by any wider public benefit, contrary to Council Policy.'

So why is it being considered again and why is he being allowed to trade there now without planning permission?

It seems that the Council are determined to push this application through, maybe as the easiest option for them. With the proposed changes to the Town Hall there is a golden opportunity to create a really nice food hub beneath it, ideal for Lily's van and other takeaway businesses.

The applicant has asked to trade for less hours, but I think we can safely assume that if this is passed there will follow an application for longer trading hours, opening the floodgates for more food vans on the Green.

The owner had said that he now doesn't need a ramp to cross the public pavement and someone will be there to supervise. However there are times when cars are parked across his access and he has to cross at a different point and drive further over the Green. Surely a safety issue.

Although the landrover is soundproofed the generator is still noisy, especially so when cooking is taking place, as the back door of the vehicle is left open. When a site visit was made last year there was no cooking at that time and the reading was misleading.

It's claimed that the van is only small, but it also needs a towing vehicle and room for a large turning circle. It parks in a way which means that nobody can sit in the space behind it under the trees and the Open Spaces department says that tables must be placed at a safe distance away - which means all the picnic benches are pushed towards the far end of the Green, restricting the seating area. Public seating has to be moved to suit his purpose. What happens if visitors have moved a bench onto his site - will he tell them to move? We have spoken to some of the school parties on the Green and they were dismayed to hear there are plans to have a food van there.

As for visitors not being able to find food, we believe this is easing now as more people are going abroad and visitor numbers are dropping slightly -possibly because of the cost of getting to the islands. We already have 13/14 takeaway outlets, ranging from fish and chips, pasties, pizzas etc.and including an existing well established Thai takeaway van and a Thai restaurant which also does takeaways. We don't believe that potentially irreparable damage will be done to the islands because of this situation, but holidaymakers would be less likely to visit if the islands start becoming more like the mainland.

Surely the solution is to find more suitable sites for mobile food vans and to protect and preserve green spaces such as Holgates Green.

Regards
Andy and Isobel Brown
Tredavoe
St Mary's
I.o.Scilly