Lisa Smith
Supporting Statement
Planning Aplication for Dog Training Area
Chapel Drove PE12 0PT

My husband and I purchased an area pasture land, approx 1.6acres, along Chapel Drove in February 2020. Since then we have been training our dogs there in the sport of agility. Dog agility involves dogs taking a set route of obstacles, mainly jumps and tunnels, but also A ramps, see saws and a Dog Walk . This is a lot of fun for dogs and owners, keeps dogs fit, builds confidence and is a very sociable sport. I myself have been participating in dog agility for over 30 years and teach a few classes a week to enable me to compete throughout the year. Several students have gone on to compete at international level.

The training area will have minimal use as I only teach to fund my hobby. During the summer months I have groups on a Tuesday, no more than 2 hours and Wednesday, again no more than 2 hours. During the winter groups move to the weekend, normally on a Sunday morning (weather may dictate alternate times). I train my own dogs adhoc throughout the week maybe 3 or 4 times depending on the weather this includes the occasional private lesson.

I also organise two training camps a year, this years are May 4/5/6 and Aug 31/Sept 1/2 where we have two members of the GB agility team come and teach. It is a small exclusive training camp that is open to pre booked participants only, most staying on site in their own vehicles, caravans, motor homes. We ran the same camp last September and it was very successful and we have several people returning this year. Noise was kept to a minimum, two of our nearest residents commented on how little noise there was and in their words were "gobsmacked" by the silence at night. I spoke to another villager who said they did hear some noise during the day but no more than the usual that they hear daily so could not say if it was from the training camp or not.

The training area itself is as far from the road as possible. We have enclosed it with stock/deer fencing and it has a pedestrian gate. We also have an enclosed allotment in which we grow our own vegetables (badly but we are learning) the rest is left as pasture and currently only used for the camping area for the two camps as mentioned above.

We have fenced and gated the front of the field approx 9mtr from the road and have added mains water for our own use, this was connected by Anglia Water September 2020.

During this last winter the training area was ok as drains extremely well, but the entrance was waterlogged, so even if we could have trained there was nowhere for students to park, therefore over lockdown we laid a hard standing area just outside the gateway. During the summer cars are parked by the training area.