

Online Comment

Application H12-0168-24
Location The Smallholding Green Dyke Lutton PE12 9LW
Proposal Agricultural Preparation Building - Retrospective

Name Timothy Wiltshire
Address 35 LOW LANE HOLBEACH SPALDING PE12 7PW

Date Submitted 14-06-24
For/Against Support

I am troubled by comments made by Ward Councillor D Wilkinson, who has made untrue statements that do not relate to planning matters

As Vice-Chair of a considerably larger Parish Council adjoining this one (Holbeach), and serving on its Planning Committee, we see and deliberate a much larger number of planning applications, involving much bigger projects, but always keep any comments specifically to matters relating to planning as we are required to do.

(We do not make unfounded comments based upon ignorance).

Councillor Wilkinson has stated, quite wrongly, that there are no Agricultural activities taking place on the site (in fact, our establishing fruit orchard, can probably be seen from Space). He has also stated, again quite wrongly, that the site is used for storage, and is (in his opinion) "untidy".

He has made no attempt to contact us to establish the FACTS.

The site is surrounded by Conifers, and it is not possible to see into the site (save for a very restricted view from the gate), and so, without access, he simply has no idea of the activities that take place there.

In fact, we enjoy a very happy relationship with our closest neighbour (an elderly couple who live directly across the road from the gate), and they have never voiced anything negative about our activities. These are the only neighbours to which there is any direct impact, and there are no problems.

Councillor Wilkinson lives over 5 miles away, and thus not only does he have no proximity to the site, I submit that he has nothing relevant to offer.

If Councillor Wilkinson cannot direct his comments to those strictly relating to planning matters (as he is required to do), then perhaps he might consider the bigger picture, and not view issues from the perspective of a well heeled retiree who has no interest in supporting new businesses that must take up the slack from the ongoing failure of mainstream Agriculture.

(And I will not need to remind anybody here of the recent impacts of closures of large conventional Agricultural processors, like Bakkavor, Butters, and most recently another 200 jobs at Worth Farms. There has never been a greater need for what we do if this process is ever to be reversed).

I will remind the Council, that this is a small site, that due to its size and shape, it is impossible to crop conventionally in any event. Had we not set up here, it would have been completely derelict as it was when we acquired it, and likely, due to the completely open access at the time, would have been plagued by fly-tipping.

Now, it not only supports the Agricultural purposes for which it was set up, a process which, with the buildings we need is fast reaching completion, in the interim, it also provides extensive remote support to two local Charities.

I therefore request that this matter is resolved without further delay, so we can get on with our job. No useful purpose is served by projects that are stalled (and Covid has already caused considerable delays), and we now need this building to further our goals and develop our business

Tim Wiltshire
Applicant