

Tog Farm Visit 20/04/22 - Objections to License Application
Wed 20/04/2022 14:40 - Pugh, Dean <PUGHD1@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK>

Hi Lee

I was contacted by Ms Lewis via e-mail on 8th and 12th April 2022 in respect of works ground works undertaken at Tog Farm since I had submitted objections to the licence application on 31st March 2022 namely:

1. Access from the 1st licensable area (point of sale of alcohol) to the 2nd licensable area (camping area, point of consumption) is via a rough track which has deeply rutted around the lower end of the track due to the ground becoming waterlogged. Extensive water pooling remained at the time of the site visit at the entrance to the camping area. In my opinion the access/egress between the licensable areas is not suitable in its present condition. Please refer to the attached photographs I took during the site visit.

2. It is noted that the operating schedule does not outline how guests will be transported between the licensable areas. The distance between the licensable areas is considerable, it took me approximately 15 minutes to walk from the proposed site of the horsebox to the campsite.

The objections would remain in force unless the applicant can demonstrate:

- that works have been undertaken to provide a surface to the track that is free from holes and ruts. The surface of the track must be maintained thereafter in a suitable condition.*
- That works have been undertaken to the entrance of the camping area to prevent water pooling.*
- Arrangement must be implemented to transport guests safely between the licensable areas. Guests must be transported in suitable enclosed vehicles. Guests must not be transported in a trailer behind an all-terrain vehicle (ATV). Guests should not sit astride an ATV.*

Ms Lewis had submitted photographs of works in progress on 8th April 2022 however I explained that the works would need to be completed to a satisfactory level and that I would need to visit the licensable area to assess compliance before considering the removal of my objections. Ms Lewis indicated that she was keen for that visit to take place as soon as possible however she advised that she would be away at the beginning of this week. I e-mailed Ms Lewis to suggest meeting at Tog Farm on 20th April at 11am. Ms Lewis did not acknowledge the e-mail.

I was aware that the Licensing Manager was due to submit a report to Committee Services on 21st April 2022 therefore I went to Tog Farm this morning at 11am hoping to assess compliance. I visited with my colleagues Lorraine Heyworth, Senior Commercial Safety Officer and Annette Dicks, Assistant Licensing Manager, both acting as Responsible Authorities. We arrived at the gated entrance at 10.47am. A sign indicated that we should stay in the car and ring the mobile telephone numbers shown on a notice board and wait for someone to meet us. Lorraine Heyworth rang both of the telephone numbers which rang to answerphone so she left a message to say that we had arrived. By 11.05 no-one had come out to meet us so Annette Dicks rang Ms Lewis. This rang to answerphone and Annette Dicks left a message. At 11.10 I moved the car up to the house and Lorraine Heyworth knocked on the front door of Tog Farm. She informed me that the door was opened by a lady that introduced herself as Ms Lewis's Mother who asked whether Bridget knew that we

were calling. Lorraine explained that Bridget had not acknowledged the e-mail, however we needed to see if the works had been completed. Ms Lewis's Mother told Lorraine that she thought it was strange as Bridget was going to St Fagans for the day. Lorraine informed me Christopher Lewis came to the door, I could see that he was on crutches. Mr Lewis was about to go out to look for Bridget Lewis however his Mrs Lewis stopped him and said that "Bridget knows they are here so she will be come around now". This gave the impression that Bridget was at home. Lorraine informed me that Mrs Lewis had entered into a conversation about how it was unfair that The Viaduct down the road had been granted a licence. She had commented to Lorraine that they only wanted a licence so that in the event of a wedding for example with 14 ladies attending, they would like to greet them with a glass of Prosecco. Lorraine Heyworth explained to me that she had to point out that even if the licence was granted this would still not be possible as Ms Lewis had only applied for a maximum of 10 persons in the licensable area. Lorraine Heyworth commented that Mrs Lewis appeared taken aback by this. I heard Lorraine Heyworth's phone ring, it was Bridget Lewis returning her call. Lorraine outlined the gist of the conversation to me in which Ms Lewis had come across as annoyed that we were there as she had not acknowledged Dean Pugh's E-mail. Ms Lewis had commented that she didn't know what she was going to be doing on 20th so chose not to answer. Lorraine Heyworth explained to Ms Lewis that as she hadn't answered and she had requested us to look at the works asap we thought that we would keep to the appointment. Lorraine Heyworth outlined that Bridget Lewis tone was fairly irate, she told Lorraine Heyworth that she definitely would not be there today as she was in hospital. Lorraine told me that Mrs Lewis seemed to be unaware of this development. I spoke with Mr. Lewis who informed me the area was not finished and he queried what the issue is with the rutting in the access track. I explained to Mr. Lewis there could be issues if people needed to leave urgently in the event of an emergency and the farm vehicle was not available for transportation purposes. Mr. Lewis recognised this could be an issue and informed me he would like see a more substantial surface to the entrance to the field over the stream. Issues with a section of the stream that passes under the track entrance to the field had caused flooding of the area resulting in rutting of the track. He said he had spoken to NRW about his proposed plan to include raised stones with recycled rubber from tyres. Mr. Lewis said NRW were happy with his proposal although Mr. Lewis is unsure if it is acceptable to the Local Authority's Planning Department. I informed Mr. Lewis our Licensing Department have to submit a report to the Committee Services, which has be to be submitted tomorrow, 21/04/22. I informed Mr. Lewis that Ms. Lewis needs to contact myself or our licensing department as soon possible.

As the works have not been completed I cannot lift the objections to the granting of the application.

regards

Dean Pugh

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