

Corsenside Parish Council wish to register their OBJECTION to the proposed landmark.

Councillors discussed, at length, the proposed application and felt that they needed to strongly object based on a variety of issues as outlined below:

Councillors are aware of substantial local objection to the erecting of such a monument and were very concerned at an apparent lack of adequate consultation with the local populace. Indeed, some locals, who would be living within a couple of miles of the proposed structure, were completely unaware of its proposal and others thought that it was in Kirkwhelpington, some 8.5 miles away, as Kirkwhelpington is stated on the planning application. A map showing parish boundaries confirms that Cold Law, the location for the proposed feature, lies within the parish of Corsenside and the villages of Ridsdale, East Woodburn and West Woodburn lie within a 2.5-mile radius of Cold Law with Ridsdale, in particular, being a mere 1.4 miles away.

It was felt that the proposed monument was very much out of keeping with the local area and the local vernacular. The proposed building material, steel, which will be left to rust, does not fit in to this landscape at all and will appear as particularly alien to its surroundings.

Its size is also of great concern being a very large overbearing industrial feature which would tower above the local landscape and completely dominate a now rural area. The proposed location is very close to Northumberland National Park, from many points of which, this monument would be visible, as it would be presumably from sections of Hadrian's Wall, a World Heritage Site. The proposed monument would impose itself on people rather than be a structure that can be sought out by choice.

Councillors also felt that the existing road infrastructure was insufficient to cope with the extra traffic which visitors to this structure could generate. The road leading to the proposed monument is unclassified and is narrow and twisting with blind summits and tight bends, is of poor condition and has a very narrow, single-track, bridge at its eastern end and dangerous junctions at either end where it joins with the A696 but particularly at the junction with the A68 where there are very poor sight lines for emerging traffic or for northbound traffic turning into the junction from the A68. There are additional hazards and safety considerations associated with slow moving agricultural traffic on this road and also occasional escapee livestock. Councillors noted that the documents associated with the planning application showed a parking space within the new proposed car park to accommodate a coach and felt that such vehicles would be entirely unsuitable for the approach road for the reasons stated above and would present a significant additional risk to other road users on such a narrow and twisting road with soft verges or no verges at all to allow opposing traffic to pass such wide vehicles.

Furthermore, Councillors were concerned at the lack of local amenities to support any increase in visitor numbers. Corsenside Parish is a small rural location with no car parks in the villages or facilities such as public toilets, to accommodate larger numbers of visitors. Councillors were concerned that this could lead to visitors having no choice but to toilet in public places with all the associated unpleasantness of such activity and the potential health risks from human waste left in the environment. Much concern was also expressed at the

potential for litter to be left and subsequently blown far and wide from what is a very exposed and windswept location. This would further detract from the natural beauty of the area and have the additional possibility of environmental damage and health risks to local livestock and wildlife from such windblown debris.

Councillors also noted that the MOD, in its response to the planning application, have outlined a requirement for a red light on the highest possible point of the feature. A sensible precaution, one would assume for the benefit of the significant number of low flying aircraft in these parts. There was great concern however, that such a light would further accentuate the intrusiveness of the proposed monument, rendering it visible at all times of the day and night and having an unwelcome impact upon our dark skies environment, being, as we are, on the edge of the third International Dark Skies Park, which we are proud, as a parish, to support.

Residents have shown concern that they have specifically chosen to live in Corsenside as they want the peace, quiet and undisturbed natural rural landscape which this area offers.

With thanks for allowing us the opportunity to comment and in anticipation of your consideration of our concerns during your deliberations.