

Comments for Planning Application 19/00247/FUL

Application Summary

Application Number: 19/00247/FUL

Address: Land At Cold Law Kirkwhelpington Northumberland

Proposal: Construction of a publicly accessible landmark, commissioned to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II and the Commonwealth.

Case Officer: Mrs Katherine Robbie

Customer Details

Name: Dr Alison Conway

Address: Harwood Head, Harwood, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 4LE

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: The proposed structure is out of keeping with the wild character of the landscape and its construction will partially destroy the very hill on which it is planned to stand. The attraction of the local area is its wildness and the structure will damage this without substantially adding benefits to tourism related businesses in the area. It is likely there will be some increase in littering. The proposal conflicts with the emerging Northumberland Local Plan Pre-submission Draft (Regulation 19) (January 2019), in particular policy ENV4 which requires proposals to demonstrate that, where a sense of openness of the open countryside is a key quality of the local landscape character, that this will not be reduced and that the quiet enjoyment of the landscape is maintained. The adverse ecological impact of the major construction work will not be offset by any future ecological benefit.

The consultation process thus far has been such that the local community were unaware of it and therefore unable to present their views. The lack of positive local support and the large numbers of objections from the local community should weigh strongly against the proposal. The access and parking area required will further intrude on the landscape.

I am enthusiastic about well considered public art, and no large sculpture or monument will be to the taste of all, but this is an incredibly inappropriate and insensitive project that has no connection or value to the landscape it will occupy and diminish due to the size and situation, regardless of the design. Local artists, writers and artisans live in, work in and are inspired by this landscape and this is a far more appropriate way for the arts to be represented in such a wild and tranquil place.

The suggestion that the monument will honour the monarch seems a tenuous excuse to bolster the proposer's case, if money is to be spent to honour a long serving monarch there are many,

many ways in which a legacy of direct benefit to either local people, or to serve to protect and preserve the wild places of the area could be devised.

It represents nothing meaningful about the area, its history and people and for the council to approve what is essentially a rich landowners's vanity project despite all the negative consequences would be to truly let down the county and the people they should exist to serve.