

To: Mr Gordon Halliday,
Planning Department,
County Hall,
Morpeth,
Northumberland,
NE61 2EF.

7 April 2020.

Reference: 20/00698/FUL

With reference to: A new Planning Application by Lord Devonport to permit him to erect a construction called "Ascendant" located at Cold Law, Kirkwhelpington, such a previous permission already having been refused by the Planning Authority.

On behalf of the Redesdale Society, of which I am the Chair, I have already written to the Planning Authority to have a previous request denied. When it was denied, the members of the Society, together with other local societies and individuals were delighted that the County Council refused to sanction the application and any associated appeal.


Since that time, members of the Society, together with a large number of people drawn from many different walks of life, have learned that Lord Devonport, with the assistance of new agents, has put forward a new planning application. To all intents and purposes, this application is almost identical to the previous proposal. Members of my society and other interested parties have studied the new plans and have stated that the new application is very similar to the previous one and should be denied.

Little new is to be found in this new unwanted venture. Three reports have been added dealing with employment, tourism and "public consultation". These new reports had very little information to add to the applicant's earlier case, for example it was reported that there were letters in support of the venture but they were not available while the 'public consulted' seemed largely drawn from associates of the applicant. Most regularly reported was that the new agents did not explore the reasons that the County Council had for refusing the original plan.

Members of my Society have asked me to point out that, since the original refusal by the Council, interest in preserving the landscape has grown greatly. The "Keep the Wannies Wild" group has nearly 2000 members and local folk have shown an increased interest in looking after the flora and wild life of the area. There is a strong feeling in the need to preserve the beautiful, open landscape. The idea of a huge, metal edifice set amid tons and tons of cement is anathema to the local people and many visitors.

As I wrote in my letter of March, my members find this proposed creation an appalling idea. As such I repeat - "as such, we object in the strongest possible terms to its construction".

Yours sincerely,


Dr Ian D Roberts,
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