

## **Application Summary**

Application Number: 20/00698/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: Mr Gordon Halliday (email: [planningcomments@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:planningcomments@northumberland.gov.uk))

## **Customer Details**

Name: Susan Dobson

Address: 13 St Hilda's Road, Hexham, NE46 2HE

## **Comment Details**

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

I wish to register my objection to the proposal , application number 20/00698/FUL detailed above.

This second proposal is virtually the same as the first but is accompanied by three new reports covering tourism, employment and public consultation.

These reports are based on poor data, do not explain all their methodology and refer to letters of support that are not actually provided.

They do not alter my opinion which I expressed in my objection to the previous planning application number APP/P2935/W/20/3244389 (see below).

The new application does not address the previous reason for refusal which was the impact of the proposal on the character of this open, sweeping landscape.

Nor does it address the fundamental problem that this sculpture is totally inappropriate in this landscape.

I object because of the harm to the landscape and do not think anything in the new application makes it more acceptable than last time.

## **Objection to planning application APP/P2935/W/20/3244389**

I have lived in different parts of Northumberland ever since I came up from the Midlands to college in Hexham in 1966. I brought up my children here, taught here for many years and since moving back to Hexham 20 years ago, I have worked as a self-employed artist and have my studio here.

From the start, I was drawn to the wide skies and wild open moors of Northumberland - the wonderful traditional music that it inspires - it's not known as 'the quiet county' for nothing.

This project threatens a very special part of this landscape. People come to the 'wild wannies' to interact with the landscape in quiet and personal ways, - climbers, walkers, artists, musicians - without imposing their presence unduly on either the land or its residents, respecting this open and tranquil place.

This project is claimed as a tribute to the Queen when in fact it has nothing to do with her. It would be three times the height of the 'Angel of the North' and require tons of concrete to fix it in place, the destruction of wildlife habitats in its construction and services which would attract pollution from traffic and litter and consequent damage to the farming community. Its carbon footprint would be large, not only in the construction, but in the activity it would engender.

The Planning Inspectorate must respect local and national guidelines now in place for the minimising of ecological and environmental factors which contribute to climate change. This proposal was roundly turned down by the local planning authority with good reason.

'Ascendent' is a vanity project by a rich man with delusions of grandeur and scant regard for the views of the local and wider residents of beautiful Northumberland who live and work here. Once built, it would be a permanent scar on this wild landscape and set a disturbing precedent for other 'vanity projects.

It is a 'post industrial' landscape, but this proposal has nothing to do with protecting our environment or making a living and the claims to the contrary are spurious. The wind turbines serve a clear purpose in generating renewable energy and in their own way are aesthetically pleasing in their fitness for purpose. They reflect the light and colour in the landscape. They can also be dismantled after 25 years. They do not set a precedent for permanent high structures,

This project serves no purpose within this landscape, other than to jar on the senses, adversely affect environmental and climate issues and create nuisance. I submit that permission for it should be refused.