

Rebekah Morgan

From: Bob Sharples <Bob.Sharples@sportengland.org>
Sent: 10 June 2020 18:40
To: Rebekah Morgan
Cc: Thomas Darlington; Alison Randle; dave.latimer@blueyonder.co.uk
Subject: App Ref: 19/02708/OUT - Bicester Heritage - Sport England Ref: PA/20/SE/CL/54961

Dear Rebekah,

Further to your email of the 20th May 2020 I have shared this additional information with the British Gliding Association and I have reviewed the documentation myself.

I note that the BGA wrote to you on the 8th June and today 10th June copying me in. While the planning application is not overly complex, the impact of the development on gliding is, and therefore I make no apology for having to rely on the evidence provided by the BGA.

For clarity the applicants are applying for the development on the south of the side – FAST development, but have submitted a master plan for context. I will comment on the master plan after I have made my recommendation.

It is clear that the development will have some impact on gliding to a lay person. However a lay person cannot quantify that impact. Looking at the site after reviewing all the documentation submitted, I am of the opinion that some development, perhaps the quantum of development can take place, but the case has not been proven, to use the Scottish legal phrase, beyond reasonable doubt, that it can take place in the precise location it has been shown in without a small amount of further work.

In their letters of the 8th and 10th June, the BGA recommends that Dr Eddowes, the council's independent advisor, speaks to Peter Stratten to get a complete picture on the use of the airfield. I would echo this.

As it stands I am persuaded by the BGA's arguments and expertise that the impact of the proposed development will have a detrimental impact on the use of the airfield for gliding and as a result a negative impact on a National Significant Area for Sport (SASP).

Conclusion

Sport England therefore raises a non-statutory objection to the granting of planning permission to 19/02708/OUT.

If this application is to be presented to a Planning Committee, Sport England would like to be notified in advance of the meeting date(s) and the publication of any agenda(s) and report(s). Sport England would also like to be notified of the outcome of the application through the receipt of a copy of the decision notice.

As I have mentioned above I believe there is a solution to be found and I would welcome an opportunity to discuss the application with the applicants and the BGA.

The Masterplan

Whilst this is not part of the current planning application, Sport England and BGA do have some concerns, but again believe they can be addressed by a discussion. Sport England is supportive of motor sport and understand the necessity of having a financially viable site. We have expertise in this and hence our request for a meeting with the applicants as we believe we can add value to their scheme.

If you would like any further information or advice please contact me at the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Bob

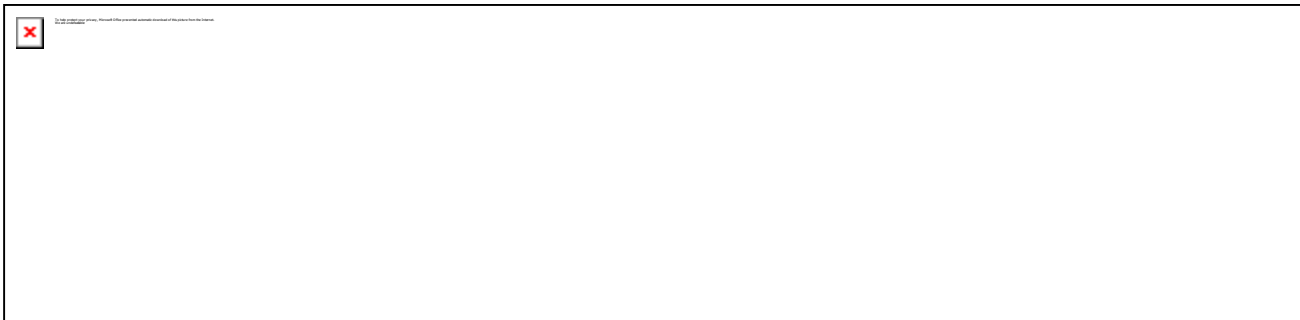
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