

APPENDIX D

Feedback from Applicant, addressing objections

E-mail response from applicant in relation to concerns raised by Mr Garbutt:

Thank you for passing this concern on, we can only reiterate what we have put in our application to hopefully dispel their concerns.

By our planning constraints we do not operate later than 10pm and most often people have dispersed by 9pm or we are down to very low numbers by 9pm, we are putting in planning to enclose the space to reduce noise, all events are very low key (no loud music etc), we operate as a pop up restaurant between the months of May – September on a Friday evening only and 4 feast nights a year on a Saturday.

We are unique in that we serve a large campsite less than 1km away from ourselves, reducing traffic on the road as it gives the opportunity for campers to walk and not drive to have food in the local village of Porlock.

The car park attracts in the region of 110, 000 visitors a year already, our addition of between 40 – 80 people on a Friday night is of limited impact. There are three houses that have children, one of whom is ourselves and as pointed out it would be unsafe to allow our children to roam in an unlit carpark at night and we have not witnessed this occurring so we do not feel this is a safety issue.

The shop serves tourists and locals alike the addition of alcohol is to showcase the best of Exmoor and Somerset, so we can continue to support and promote other local businesses.

E-mail response from applicant in relation to concerns raised by Graham Haw:

We are not aiming to create a pub, as submitted within the application the licence is for the shop to be able to sell alcohol to showcase local drinks producers such as Exmoor Gin or Exmoor Ale, the vision is not for consumption on the premises during the daytime hours, but as place visitors and locals have access to buy local produce to benefit the local economy.

We open on a Friday evening during June - September where consumption would be indeed be encouraged on the premises through the sale from the shop. Between the hours of 6pm and 10pm, this is very different from the description of the creation of a pub in Horner.

As the majority of the visitors to our pizza evenings are in fact local or from the campsite (who walk up) it seems unlikely there is going to be a sudden increase in drunk drivers as our customers and us as hosts have a responsible policy in place, customers book taxis if they do not have a designated driver.

Litter has not increased as a result of the farm serving pizzas on a Friday evening, the majority of our customers 90% to be exact sit in and 10% takeaway of which the majority drive away with their pizzas.

Litter has significantly increased since Covid lockdowns with the significant increase in visitors, our pizza evenings have been running since 2019 and the litter has coincided with the increased visitors

to the area following the covid restrictions, as a farm this has been especially noticeable as we have to collect litter roadside and in the car park entrance to the farm.

When customers sit in we deal with all litter accumulated through our contract with Biffa waste.

We want to be very clear in our intentions, we continue to want to celebrate local produce and our farm shop offers an incredible spot for many visitors to be able to sample sustainable produce from local business, as our Agro ecological business model intends this is not about a single business gain but multiple business growing by supporting each other to create more resilient local economy and communities. Our farm business supports more than just one family and at a time when many young people are forced to leave the area due lack of work and with current agricultural transition moving forwards this is causing a significant reduction in farm incomes, diversification is essential.