

As Clerk to East Kennett Village Meeting, I have been asked to coordinate an objection on behalf of **16 members** of the village to the planning application 15/04373/ FUL.

Prior to, and at the East Kennett Parish Meeting of 27/5/2015, numerous villagers expressed concern about the application and since the revised planning application has been submitted, concern has increased. These comments are in addition to the previous letter of opposition.

David Snape

Clerk to East Kennett Parish Meeting

Reasons for requesting rejection of planning application

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1. Current situation

The site has been in use for 2 years and what started as a small shoot has grown in size to a full business offering CPSA registered shoots, Saturday training, individual tuition and corporate events.

The owners and operators of the site have not until now sought to obtain planning permission but operate within the 28 day planning rule. The rule was breached in respect that the site has permanent structures in addition to the shooting and therefore the 28 day rule has been exceeded.

At the request of the planning enforcement officer, use of the site for shooting has been suspended until the outcome of the planning application is known.

2. Planning application

The siting of the shoot is in a sensitive area, close to the village of East Kennett (820 metres), West Kennett Long Barrow a SSSI (1020 metres) and the public footpath which is well publicised as the White Horse Trail in many walking guides (236 metres). The whole area is administered by the North Wessex Downs as an AONB.

Taking these factors into account we would have expected the following to accompany the application:

- a. An environmental impact study*
- b. A health and safety report*
- c. Site drawing for the positioning of the shooting stands*
- d. Proposals for noise attenuation*
- e. Numbers of guns allowed*
- f. Days between shooting*
- g. Traffic control*

In respect of the planning application, there are certain anomalies:-

Numbers as application form:-

2. Description of the proposal

The building work was not started and completed on 22/04/2012. Work on the conversion apparently started in 2015 and can be viewed on the application as incomplete. The land for shooting was operating under the 28 day rule and not change of use.

6. Site Area 4.20 hectares

The shoot is advertised as a registered CPSA (Clay Pigeon shooting Association) shoot. The requirement of the CPSA for land area and we quote "The minimum area required for a clay pigeon site is about 15 hectares (approx. 34/40 acres) to include a minimum safety zone of 275 metres (300 yds) in front of the shooting stands in the general direction in which shooting takes place. Within that safety zone there must not be any places to which the public has access such as public highways, footpaths and bridleways, etc."

10. Vehicle parking

No provision has been made for parking - does this mean the public highway become a car park for up to 150 cars?

3. Other comments

This piece of land has been used in the past for Motocross without planning permission. The shoot has contravened the 28 day rule and is currently subject to planning intervention and is suspended.

The old dairy has been converted to a clubhouse without planning permission. To remain in business, planning permission has to be obtained and another 28 days shooting this year must not be a reward for contravening planning regulations.

On shooting days the residents of East and West Kennett are subjected to a sustained level of industrialised gunfire in terms of noise level and continuity. During the summer months certain homes are deprived of their rights to enjoy the tranquillity of their gardens and surrounding open space.

Residents of West Kennett and users of the White Horse Trail are subject to substantial traffic movements on a single track road and the noise level when walking or riding adjacent to the site.

The Website for Gunsite Sporting Clays advertises Clay shoot days, training days, tuition and corporate days. It is not possible to have this number of events within a 28 day period without breaking planning regulations.

Regulation of activity

If permission is granted how will the site be monitored to ensure the conditions are met?"