

Planning Application 20/02159/cou

Ref: NN/2/0121/2

Change of use of railway land to storage facility to be used for containers, boat and caravan storage

To: [Lesley.Little@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Lesley.Little@northumberland.gov.uk)

I am Heather Cairns. I am the Chair of Ellingham Parish Council and I am making this response to the above planning application on behalf of Ellingham PC and residents of Chathill

I had expected to make this representation in person and am disappointed that public participation is reduced to an officer reading my response.

I am asking Members of the Planning Committee to refuse this application for the following reasons:

- Chathill is a small rural village of 23 dwellings through which the East Coast mainline runs. This mainline is crossed by the C69, the road from the A1 to Beadnell.
  1. Containers, boats and caravans parked at this location will be within the setting of the Listed buildings and have a detrimental effect on the Listed station, signal box and waiting room. These historic gems are looked after by a local person who keeps up an annual floral display to enhance the setting. "Listed buildings should be sustained and enhanced."
  2. The site will be visible from the C69 when approaching from the East and going West. This is a little country station which should not be marred by an urban facility. "It will be an incongruous feature in the landscape".
  3. Road management. The C69 through Chathill carries traffic from the A1 to Beadnell and Seahouses and the level crossing gates shut frequently causing tailbacks (Approx. 6 x per hour). The road also carries farm traffic from Chathill farm and is part of the Sustrans Coast/Castle cycle route. The road is always in a bad state of repair (potholes and break up of surface) and cyclists are in conflict with farm machinery already. An increase in traffic pulling caravans and boats will exacerbate the already undesirable situation. Ellingham PC has requested a road traffic survey through the village so the speed of the traffic can be mitigated. This has been agreed. A recent car crash resulted in demolition of part of the signal box containing operating machinery for the East Coast line.
  4. In conclusion, the harm that will be caused to Listed buildings, residents and cyclists, in the view of the Parish Council outweighs any benefits. This would not be a local business, it is of benefit to those who live elsewhere.
- Should the Planning Committee approve this application we would welcome the following conditions:
  1. Wildlife condition  
This site had remained unused for 30 years. Natural vegetation had invaded and supported wildlife including hedgehogs, as it was undisturbed. The site was cleared before the application was lodged to the distress of local people. We therefore would welcome conditions relating to planting of native hedgerow – please can we have some cherry and crab apples.

2. Frequency of operating  
Daylight hours in winter /Between 7am and 7pm in summer, to protect the amenity of nearby residents.
3. Use  
Storage only – no maintenance
4. Lighting  
Low level/low lux to protect the amenity of local residents