

## Wellington Heath Parish Council

7 Apr 2018

To HCC Planning Mr Steve Davis  
Copy AONB Paul Esrich  
Copy Ward Councillor E P J Harvey

Planning application 180527 Swallow Farm Ménage and hard standing retrospective

Dear Sir,

Wellington Heath Parish Councillors discussed this planning application at the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 27 March.

NDP policy WH14 Viewpoints and Ridgelines restricts development on ridgelines owing to their importance in the landscape, especially as seen from Key Viewpoints. This site is seen from nearby viewpoints 2, 19 and 6 as well as from the ancient monument British Camp on the Malvern Hills at a distance.

We recognise that the ménage is an important asset for the commercial stables at Swallow Farm and note that the height of development can be minimised and with appropriate design and / or landscaping can be integrated into the landscape. Therefore we do not object to the ménage providing it is appropriately designed and landscaped and would ask that advice is sought on this matter from the Malvern Hills AONB.

Lighting of the ménage is more difficult. NDP policy WH14 restricts the height of developments. WH12.4 Pollution, Water, Waste and Light Management supports Dark Skies. Therefore we do not support lighting of the ménage. We do however note that the supports for the currently unapproved lighting are reasonably unobtrusive. Some of the currently unapproved lighting units are not adequately hooded and shine brightly towards nearby properties for protracted periods. They appear to be sodium lights which may not be suitable for switching on and off for short periods. If permission is given for lighting, the lighting units and their hood must be of a more suitable type.

The proposed storage area is inconsistent with NDP policy WH14 Viewpoints and Ridgelines because it is on a very prominent ridgeline and very visible from key viewpoints 2, 6 and 19. The extent of built up land is considerable and has been periodically extended. The items including horse boxes and a lorry which are sometimes stored there are not appropriate to this prominent location.

C F Rozelaar  
Chair of Wellington Heath parish council planning committee