

## Objection from Parish Council

Dear Sirs

Please consider the observations and concerns from Great Linford Parish Council.

The Conniburrow centre was taken over by the Parish Council in early 2022 and since then, the variety of user groups, and the services provided here have expanded dramatically. There are sports and leisure activities ranging from Softball to Football to keep fit. There are religious activities, senior citizens, seated yoga and numerous other community engagement activities. A café has been created in the Conniburrow Hub which is adjacent to the Centre and serves teas and coffees throughout the daytime. It opens in the evenings with support from the YMCA to provide a warm shelter for young people. GLPCs main aim is to create as many different activities as possible and events to entice the younger people to come and get involved in the centre and hub. We now have a thriving youth club on a Friday evening which attracts over 30 young people. We have cadets and circus skills, so every evening. Monday to Friday there is something for young people to get involved with. On a Saturday there is a community café will 19:00.

Resident surveys consistently request that youth services and activities are put on to engage positively with younger people. To provide a safe place for them to meet, learn and engage with others and importantly with other services to learn about staying safe , staying health and getting involved in activities.

Therefore when we consider the license application for the trader to be parked in one of the few public parking spaces in this area Great Linford Parish Council would like to you to consider the following;

- The focus on “youth” activities at this venue means that the facility should be considered in the same breath as “schools, academy college, special locations” and as such the trading requirements of prohibiting trading within 250 meters of the entrance should be considered.
- The traders parking location is less than 38 meters from the Centres front door and 75 metres from the Café
- The traders offering is in conflict with the messages GLPC, and partner groups are trying to promote with especially the young people we are trying to encourage to the Centre

- The trader will be a focus for people to hang out nearby. Currently we are trying to ensure our young people are safe and free from “others hanging around” the area – we encourage them to play or be outside and would like to ensure the area is free from distractions. Distractions that we are now from local evidence occurs in other locations around our parish .
- The parking at the community centre is limited , with a small number of public spaces outside the centres own parking. Currently office workers park in the area and walk to their place of work. This is not anecdotal as we have spoken with people as they park up in the morning and walk away. These people also like to park in our car park. All of this creates issues for users of the centre and so the loss of another two spaces with a trader just adds to the existing problem.
- As with other traders in the parish we know that vehicles will travel to the trader, this will in turn create issues with car parking and traffic movement.
- The centre has a well-used public Multi-user games area (MUGA) next to the parking space. The litter, in this location has been a constant battle since GLPC took over the area. Caretakers daily clean the area and increasing bin capacity has not solved the issue. We are concerned, that even if the trader is required to have a bin close by (as is requested of other traders) the litter will “walk” with the client or be added to the existing litter problem.

The parish council believes that this trading consent does not support the ethos and aims that the community, the parish council and its partners are trying to build within this estate, an estate that falls within the deprivation indices. This is why the work at the Centre and the Hub are vital in our aim to develop an area where young people, all people can visit safely and which promotes healthy activities, and health food focus.

The parish council believes that another location could be found that does not conflict with the activities and objectives of the centre and the hub . This could be within the parking spaces at the bottom of Conniburrow

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6Def1rbEvroRrhnpA> or what3words

<https://w3w.co/lob-book.coil.supreme>

We would ask that the license for this location is not accepted and that the trader is asked to locate to another area.

Regards

Eirwen Tagg (Mrs)

Parish Manager