

Planning Committee Report C/2014/0507/F – Golf Links Holiday Park	23rd August 2017
PLANNING COMMITTEE	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing our Environment and Assets
Outcome	Pro-active decision making which protects the natural features, characteristics and integrity of the Borough
Lead Officer	Principal Planning Officer/Development Management Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	N/a

**Golf Links Holiday Park
Bushmills Road**

Portrush

**C/2014/0507/F
Full Planning**

23rd August 2017

<u>No:</u>	C/2014/0507/F	<u>Ward:</u>	Atlantic
<u>App Type:</u>	Full Planning		
<u>Address:</u>	Golf Links Holiday Park, Bushmills Road, Portrush		
<u>Proposal:</u>	Proposed additional 9 no. caravan plots and addition of improved access to sales yard and associated site works		
<u>Officer:</u>	Noel McGowan		
<u>Con Area:</u>	N/A	<u>Valid Date:</u>	15.12.14
<u>Listed Building Grade:</u>	N/A	<u>Target Date:</u>	
Agent:	Bell Architecture Ltd.		
Applicant:	Cloughorr Developments		
Objections:	15	Petitions of Objection:	0
Support:	0	Petitions of Support:	0

Drawings and additional information are available to view on the Planning Portal- www.planningni.gov.uk

1 RECOMMENDATION

1.0 That the Committee has taken into consideration and agrees with the reasons for the recommendation set out in section 9 and the policies and guidance in sections 7 and 8 and resolves to **APPROVE** planning permission subject to the conditions set out in section 10.

2.0 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

2.1 The red line incorporates a large existing privately owned caravan park. The caravan park is called Golf Links Holiday Park and is located opposite the Royal Portrush Golf Course on the Bushmills Road just outside the settlement development

limit of Portrush. The proposal is to be sited on an area which is currently used for caravan sales beside land within the caravan park which has recently been approved and new caravan plots constructed. The land is flat. There is existing vehicular and pedestrian access to the site. There is an existing open space grass area at roadside with mature hedging. This is a large caravan park positioned around an existing nightclub and restaurant.

The character is established with the immediate landscape defined by caravans in the large caravan park. There is suburban housing to the west of the site fronting onto Bushmills Road.

3.0 RELEVANT HISTORY

C/2013/0253/F - Proposed Extension to Existing Holiday Homes Park to Provide 23 no Caravan Plots - Approved 24.09.2014. (This extension is positioned on the roadside to the north east of the main complex).

C/2014/0432/F - Proposed Extension to Holiday Homes Park to provide 7 no. Plots to meet Tourist Demand - Approved 05.07.2016. (This extension is positioned on the roadside to the north east of the main complex).

LA01/2015/0550/F - Play park for younger children to compliment the whole development at Golf Links Portrush. Age group to be toddlers – Approved 31.03.2016. (This play park would be to the south of properties on Sunnyvale Avenue).

4.0 THE APPLICATION

- 4.1 Proposed additional 9 no. caravan plots and addition of improved access to sales yard and associated site works. Over the course of processing the application, the proposal was amended to exclude an area of caravan plots to the front of the site next Bushmills Road.

Environmental Impact Assessment

- 4.2 This proposal was subject to a Regulation 12 Applications which appears to require determination as to need for environmental

impact assessment determination as to the need for environmental impact assessment and opinion as to content of environmental statement, under The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

- 4.3 The application was considered to fall within Schedule 2, Section 12(e) of the Regulations – *Permanent camp sites and caravan sites*. In accordance with Schedule 3 of the Regulations, the development was considered, having regard to the characteristics of the development, the location of the development and the characteristics of the potential impact. It was concluded that the environmental effects from the development would mainly be on the site and immediate surrounding area. The proposal was not considered to be unusually complex or have any potentially significant environmental effects. The consultation did not identify any significant environmental effects from the proposal and the determination was set out in a letter dated 04.08.2017 that the proposal was not an EIA development and as such did not need to be accompanied by an Environmental Statement.
- 4.4 Having considered the 2017 EIA Regulations and the guidance set out in DCAN 10, officials do not consider the development proposal to have any likely impacts of such a significance to warrant an environmental statement.

Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 4.5 The potential impact of this proposal on Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites has been assessed in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 43 (1) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended). The proposal would not be likely to have a significant effect on the features of any European site.

5.0 PUBLICITY & CONSULTATIONS

External: Neighbours.

There have been 15 letters of objection received and the issues include:

- Impact on privacy and amenity of neighbours due to high density of holiday home lodges, overlooking and associated late night noise levels and disturbance.
- Out of character with residential area.
- Traffic congestion at busy junction.
- Rubbish dumped to rear of 7-9 Bushmills Road in service yard.
- Concerns that land is not being used for social housing instead of caravans.
- Requirement for buffer zone between houses and the site.

Internal:

DFI Roads: no objections.

Environmental Health: no objections.

NI Water: no objections.

Historic Environment Division Archaeology: no objections.

6.0 MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Section 45(1) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires that all applications must have regard to the local plan, so far as material to the application, and all other material considerations. Section 6(4) states that in making any determination where regard is to be had to the local development plan, the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

6.2 The development plan is:

- Northern Area Plan 2016

6.3 The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) is a material

consideration.

- 6.4 The Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) is a material consideration. As set out in the SPPS, until such times as a new local plan strategy is adopted, councils will apply specified retained operational policies.
- 6.5 Due weight should be given to the relevant policies in the development plan.
- 6.6 All material considerations and any policy conflicts are identified in the “Considerations and Assessment” section of the report.

7.0 RELEVANT POLICIES & GUIDANCE

The Northern Area Plan 2016

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement for N. Ireland

Planning Policy Statement 16 Tourism

Planning Policy Statement 21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside

8.0 CONSIDERATIONS & ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The main considerations in the determination of this application relate to the policy requirements of Policies TSM 6 and 7 of PPS 16 Tourism; access and; amenity.

Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)

- 8.2 Paragraph 6.255 states that the aim of the SPPS in relation to tourism development is to manage the provision of sustainable and high quality tourism developments in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment.
- 8.3 It goes to explain that acceptable tourist development in the countryside may include a new or extended holiday park that must be a high quality and sustainable form of tourism development. It continues under paragraph 6.265 that a positive approach should be adopted in determining applications for tourism development so long as proposals are sustainable, are in

accordance with the LDP, and will result in high quality forms of development. Important considerations will include whether the nature, scale and design of the specific proposal is appropriate to the site context. Paragraph 6.266 says that applications for tourism development will also be assessed in accordance with normal planning criteria such as access arrangements, design, environmental and amenity impacts so as to ensure high quality, safe and otherwise satisfactory forms of development.

Policies TSM 6 and 7 of PPS 16 Tourism

8.4 The application site is located in the countryside as defined by the Northern Area Plan 2016. Pg.37 of the Plan Strategy and Framework states that PPS 16 Tourism sets out the Department's planning policy for tourism development. Policy CTY 1 of PPS 21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside directs that planning permission will be granted for tourism development in accordance with the TOU policies of the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland. These TOU policies have been superseded by PPS 16. Therefore PPS 16 provides the main policy basis to assess the proposal. The most relevant policy in PPS 16 is TSM 6 New and Extended Holiday Parks in the Countryside. Also relevant is TSM 7 Criteria for Tourism Development. The policy requirements of TSM 6 are considered below:

(a) The site is located in an area that has the capacity to absorb the holiday park development, without adverse impact on visual amenity and rural character;

The site is positioned within a long established caravan park which sets the character of the immediate area. The 9 caravan plots are set back approx.100m from the roadside and will not be visible from the roadside but rather within the site and within the context of surrounding caravans as a backdrop. Therefore there will be no adverse impact on visual amenity or the character of the area. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to meet with the requirements of criterion g. of Policy TSM 7 regarding compatibility with surrounding land uses.

(b) Effective integration into the landscape must be secured primarily through the utilisation of existing natural or built features. Where appropriate, planted areas or discrete groups of trees will be required along site boundaries in order to soften the visual impact of the development and assist its integration with the surrounding area;

As this is a long established caravan park and there are no natural features on the area where the caravan plots will be located, the caravans will be absorbed into the existing park without any detrimental impact on the landscape. The existing boundary hedging will remain alongside neighbouring properties to act as a buffer and protect the environment. This is a very large park and the addition of 9 plots will not materially affect the overall character of the area. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to meet with the requirements of criteria b. and c. of Policy TSM 7 regarding layout, design, landscaping and boundary treatment.

(c) Adequate provision (normally around 15% of the site area) is made for communal open space (including play and recreation areas and landscaped areas), as an integral part of the development;

The park is long established and has been constructed before the current policy was published. It has existing open space provision and the addition of 9 plots in terms of the overall scale of the existing park will not require additional open space.

(d) The layout of caravan pitches / motor homes is informal and characterised by discrete groupings or clusters of units separated through the use of appropriate soft landscaping;

As the existing caravan park covers a wide area and is long established with an existing layout, the addition of 9 plots is only a minor portion of land within the scale of the larger park and for this reason does not reasonably require a different pattern of development at this stage. The pattern of development is acceptable in terms of deterring crime and promoting public safety (Criterion e. of Policy TSM 7).

(e) The design of the development, including the design and scale of ancillary buildings and the design of other elements including internal roads, paths, car parking areas, walls and

fences, is appropriate for the site and the locality, respecting the best local traditions of form, materials and detailing;

The design of the development for 9 caravan plots will fit in with the existing established design of caravan layout in the surrounding park. The 9 plots are only a minor portion of the overall caravan park and the proposed layout respects the current design layout.

(f) Environmental assets including features of the archaeological and built heritage, natural habitats, trees and landscape features are identified and, where appropriate, retained and integrated in a suitable manner into the overall design and layout;

Historic Environment Division (Archaeology) has been consulted and they have no objections. There are no built heritage or natural habitats on the development site. This is a built up caravan park and is long established with an urban character. However, any of the existing hedging alongside the neighbouring properties will be retained for the benefit of maintaining amenity. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to meet with the requirements of criterion i. of Policy TSM 7 regarding the natural and built heritage.

(g) Mains water supply and sewerage services must be utilised where available and practicable.

Infrastructure currently exists on site linking into the urban systems. This was confirmed through consultation with NI Water. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to meet with the requirements of criterion j. of Policy TSM 7 regarding water quality.

Access

- 8.5 Objections raised the issue of traffic congestion. However, the access and parking arrangements are considered to be acceptable. DFI Roads as the competent authority have been consulted and have raised no objections. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to meet with the requirements of criteria a. k. l. and m. of Policy TSM 7 regarding movement pattern, access and the existing road network.

Amenity

- 8.6 Objections raise the issue of overlooking. However, given the distance between the proposal (as amended) at approximately 22 meters and existing dwellings, such overlooking is unlikely. Retention of the existing hedge provides further protection of amenity. Further issues raised by objections are noise and disturbance. Environmental Health as the competent authority have not raised an objection with regard to the impact of noise on existing dwellings. Therefore the proposal is considered to meet with the requirements of criterion h. of Policy TSM 7. A noise impact assessment was required to assess the impact on proposed receptors from the adjacent night club. However, the Agent advised that the development likely to be affected would be retained as part of the Kelly's Complex. In light of this Environmental Health confirmed that a noise impact assessment would not be required.

Other Matters

- 8.5 Objections have been addressed where possible under the consideration above. The other matters include the objections regarding:

Rubbish dumped to rear of 7-9 Bushmills Road in service yard.

The enforcement team have been notified regarding this objection and an ongoing investigation is underway regarding unauthorised dumping.

Concerns that land is not being used for social housing instead of caravans.

The land is not zoned for housing under the Northern Area Plan 2016.

Requirement for buffer zone between houses and the site.

There is sufficient separation distance between the plots and the neighbouring houses. There is a boundary hedge to be retained and the closest house is approx. 22 metres away.

The objections do not hold sufficient weight to warrant refusal of the application.

9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 The proposal is considered acceptable in this location having regard to the Northern Area Plan 2016 and other material considerations. The additional caravan development is an appropriate use of the land and is acceptable in terms of its layout and appearance. No significant harm would be caused to neighbouring amenity and the proposal is acceptable in terms of road safety. Approval is recommended.

10.0 CONDITIONS

10.1 Regulatory Conditions:

1. As required by Section 61 the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this permission.

Reason: Time Limit.

2. The existing vegetation shown in Drawing 06/6 date stamped received on 29 June 2017 shall be retained in its entirety and the proposed landscaping shown on the same drawing shall be carried out in full in the first planting season following the commencement of the development hereby approved.

Reason: In the interests of neighbouring and visual amenity.

