

Planning Committee – Update Sheet

Planning Applications

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WP/20/00756/FUL	Waterside Holiday Park, Bowleaze Coveyway, Weymouth DT3 6PP	4a	7-42
<p>Consultation response received from the Economic Development team:</p> <p>The proposal itself clearly outlines the local economic benefits of tourism in general and more specifically for the holiday park expansion and improvements proposed, referencing national and local planning policy and economic studies. These comments are about the proposal in general from an economic development perspective, rather than any specific features of it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism is key to Weymouth’s economy, accounting for approximately one quarter of all jobs. • It is reasonable to assume that without investment in the park, visitor numbers and spend will decline and at some point the park will become uneconomic. • It is reasonable to assume better accommodation will lead to increased prices and higher spend both on and off site, benefitting the economy of Weymouth and surrounding areas. • The leisure facilities can contribute to wider efforts to expand shoulder and off-season tourism in Weymouth. They can also be a community asset, particularly out of season. • Dorset in general has a longstanding housing affordability issue and Weymouth is no exception, driven in part by homes being used as second homes and holiday accommodation. Expanding the tourist accommodation offer through additional static caravans/lodges/pods avoids putting pressure on housing stock. • A very great proportion of Dorset is covered with landscape and ecological designations. High quality landscape, Green and Blue infrastructure are some of Dorset’s greatest assets, however unless we wish to simply preserve Dorset in aspic, development has to go <i>somewhere</i>. This site is close to but not in any of the designated areas, and the size and scale of the development seems designed to minimise environmental impact. It is also served by one of the most frequent bus services in Dorset. • Dorset Council’s vision is for Dorset to be a great place to live, work, and visit, and this proposal offers opportunities for both work and visits. <p>Based on the above, improvement of the site to suit current and future market demand would be good for the economy of Weymouth.</p> <p>Looking at Local Plan points: 4.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.4, 4.1.7, 4.1.8, 4.2.1, 4.5.1, 4.5.7, Econ 5, 4.5.13, Econ 6, 4.8.18, 4.5.21 and 4.5.22, two features stand out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If we are to have more accommodation and facilities of this type, then the expansion of existing sites with accessible labour, services, and infrastructure - such as this one - is likely to best fit with the Local Plan. 			

2. However, there is a need to strike a balance with landscape considerations (which I am not qualified to assess).

Additional 3rd party comment received:

I stand by my previous comments when this development was first brought to our notice; this is not the place for further unsightly development directly beneath the Coast Path and World Heritage Site, nor would anyone wish to see additional car parking, play areas etc.