

IAN WHITTINGTON & TERRI BRADSHAW

THE LODGE, ALVINGHAM LAKES, LOCK ROAD, ALVINGHAM, LOUTH, LINCS, LN11 7EU

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Planning Department
East Lindsey District Council

12th February 2024

Dear Sirs

Proposed Removal of Existing Planning Consent Condition

Planning Permission re Application No: N41010/91

2. Condition :- The occupation of the dwelling shall be limited to a person solely or mainly employed or last employed on the fish farm

When we purchased Alvingham Lakes some 9 years ago, it was with the intention of leaving a very stressful city lifestyle to enjoy a more self-sufficient way of life. We have invested heavily and worked tirelessly to bring the fisheries up to an acceptable standard for people to enjoy. We have done our utmost to encourage visitors, both able bodied and those with disabilities, to enjoy their local countryside and participate in the gentle outdoor pursuit of fishing.

We have added stock to the lakes, removed 20 years worth of silt, are managing the aquatic plants, and have shored up the banks. We have fenced the property, offering a more secure and safe environment for our fish. Wildlife is once again flourishing here, with bats, hedgehogs, owls, swallows, geese, and kingfishers nesting. With just over 6 acres of grounds and lakes, there is always ongoing maintenance of grass-cutting, strimming, hedge trimming, tree and fence management, lake aeration, weed control, liming, water quality control, etc. Allowing public on site, we also have to ensure the lakes are adequately insured.

We have constructed (with full planning permission) secure storage and washroom facilities, and offer cycle hire and an information station with a basic refreshment stop for tourists and local walkers along Louth canal.

We adore our property, and do not begrudge the work that is involved in its upkeep, but we do require it to be financial viable in order to maintain the high, and safe, standards suitable for all anglers, ramblers, tourists, and any other member of the public entering our site.

Lincolnshire offers an abundant selection of coarse fishing lakes, but unfortunately, angling as a sport is in serious decline - the Environment Agency have noted a significant reduction in the purchase of rod licences over the last decade, despite running advertising campaigns and offering incentives. The 'covid years' brought a brief respite, as fishing was one of the few permitted outdoor activities, but since then, numbers have continued to fall. Twenty years ago, our insurance company advised they were covering Alvingham Lakes for some 1500 day tickets per year. Last year, we did less than 100.

We have very recently learned of National Grid's 'Grimsby to Walpole Great Grid Upgrade', and that we now face the probability of 50m high pylons in, or extremely close, to our property. So our unique selling point of peace and tranquillity that we offer here at Alvingham Lakes will be shattered.

Although we have no intention of closing the fishing lakes to the public, it is no longer financially viable to be 'solely, or mainly employed on the fishery' – with ever increasing costs across the board (utilities, materials, insurance, to name but a few), alternative employment is required in order to afford to maintain the property. Last year, our income was less than £3,000 from day tickets. Despite always attempting to keep costs to a bare minimum, our expenses far outweighed that figure, plus we had to replace the ancient mower that we 'inherited' 9 years ago, at a cost of £3,500.

It is our desire to remain living here at Alvingham Lakes, which brings with it the role of custodian to the abundance of wildlife flora and fauna that resides here with us, for as long as we are able, but in order to do this successfully, we do need an alternative income source. We do not wish to live in breach any planning conditions, and we therefore respectfully request that the original condition imposed with the planning permission back in 1991 that the occupation of the dwelling shall be limited to a person solely or mainly employed on the fish farm, is removed with immediate effect.

We would very much appreciate your support with our application.

Kind Regards

Ian Whittington & Terri Bradshaw