

Planning & Regulatory Committee 18 November 2020

Requests to address the Committee received in accordance with the Standing Orders

Public Participation under Standing Order No. 17 (up to a maximum of five minutes per speaker - this section should not exceed thirty minutes):

Name	Subject

Public Speaking on applications for planning permission under Standing Order 17A (up to a maximum of three minutes per speaker - this section should not exceed thirty minutes):

Agenda Item No.	Application	Statement (s)
06	Planning Application No 20/P/0701/FUL - Erection of 4no. buildings: 1no. building to be for Use Class B8 (Storage and Distribution) and 3no. buildings to be for indoor sport, recreation or fitness uses together with access roads, paths and parking for 36 cars, including 5 parking spaces for the adjoining children's day nursery (part retrospective) Puxton Park, Cowslip Lane, Hewish, Weston-super-Mare, BS24 6AH	Against the proposal: For the proposal: Mr Alistair Mead, applicant

Dear Councillors, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak:

The site is a former hard standing and storage area where we have stored stone and landscaping goods. Pictures showing clearly that it is not a green field site has been provided to the planning officer. The new buildings/drop off zone is 23 meters away from existing buildings and is therefore closely connected and in keeping with existing infrastructure. We are already performing the majority of the activities proposed for these buildings at Puxton Park, but in uninsulated agricultural barns which are not fit for purpose. We present nativity plays, Phobia nights, Halloween nights, dance classes, exercise lessons etc.

We want to expand the dance side of the business by doing a joint venture with Bella Trix a local Hip Hop Dance School. Bella, an 18 yrs old entrepreneur and dance teacher, currently cannot find enough availability in the local area to teach her dance classes as she needs a sizeable venue with an installed Sprung Dance floor of which there is only one locally big enough and they cannot give her more sessions. The limited availability is restricting the growth of her business and making it difficult for her to continue. A number of her existing customers already visit Puxton Park so there are plenty of linked trips.

The Gym we are proposing is not a normal Gym. It's called NATURAL TRAINING and is aimed at everyone from youngsters to elderly and does not involve pumping Iron. The building will be a base for the fitness activities and will also include a Segway circuit. Furthermore the outside space, including our farmland and nearby droves and footpaths, will be an additional space for running around, pulling tyres and throwing hay bales in the summer. Therefore this isn't actually a conventional Gym – but a place for people to come and get healthy with the aid of the outside natural environment, something that cannot be accommodated in a town.

The general consultees (Internal Drainage Board, Environment Agency, NSC Highways) have NO OBJECTIONS to the plans. No local residents have objected and Puxton Parish Council have no objections and stated they 'welcomed the increased local employment opportunities'. There is no ecological harm created by the barns and we will plant many new trees and hedges. We will have solar PV on the roofs and this application will create 12 new jobs.

The planning officer stated that we are not a sustainable site. This is completely unfounded as we have a regular bus service going past our front gate every hour, used by many of our staff, customers, and students. We are approx. 3 km from a mainline train station and we employ over 100 people onsite.

To conclude, I hope you can support this application.

Thank you,

Alistair Mead
Managing Director
Puxton Ltd