DCAPPLET 11/00404/CONDIT EM

COTTAGE FARM, NORTON-JUXTA-TWYCROSS, ATHERSTONE, WARWICKSHIRE. CV9 3QH.

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6th. July 2011

Ms. E. Mattley,
Council Offices,
Argents Mead,
Hinckley,
Leicestershire.
LE10 1BZ

Cc: Peter Diffey & Associates Ltd.

Ref: 11/00404/CONDIT

Dear Ms. Mattley,

Further to your site visit on 29th. June when you raised certain verbal queries and further requests in your emails.

Re your verbal query regarding the grassed area to the north of the trailer. For the last five years this area along with all the other areas shaded green on the enclosed plan have been in an environmental stewardship scheme. These areas were either sown with a wild flower/grass mixture or a nectar/pollen grass mix or had been left to natural regeneration. The areas were only mown once during the five years and were basically very overgrown/natural areas! The scheme finished approximately eight weeks ago and the areas were subsequently mown off as you will have noticed on your site visit. They were mown again on the 30th June and will probably require mowing again prior to being returned to arable cropping this autumn when the rest of the fields are planted.

Reference to condition 3 of planning permission 09/00813/COU. The site has **not at any time** been used for any business or commercial use. There is **not** a microlight club. There **never have been** any training facilities or training school regardless of what one ill-informed objector has quite incorrectly suggested. The only training that was ever done was by myself and a personal friend and we qualified in June 2006.

It has been suggested that we move the lorry trailer which has been erroneously described as a "clubhouse" by a visiting plane spotter! As an employer of 15 full and part-time employees we are obliged to provide rest facilities at the various sites we operate from. We have two other sites with similar trailer facilities to the one at Cottage Farm and another two sites with purpose built facilities. The fact that the trailer at Cottage Farm is also used by our friends who fly microlights does not elevate it to the position of "clubhouse". Since there is no "club" at Cottage Farm it follows that there is no "clubhouse"!

Please find the enclosed copy of the movement log from October 2006.

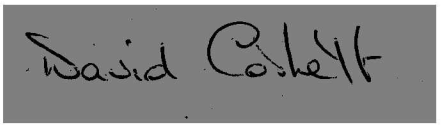
My wife and myself both fly and the main reason for the planning application was to allow us flexibility to give people less fortunate than ourselves, in some cases terminally ill, the chance to experience something they would otherwise have been unlikely to achieve. We take the microlights to local fetes, where we get a lot of interest and support, and it would be nice to have the opportunity when the weather permitted to give members of the local community the experience of a flight. In the past when we have taken people on a flight we have found that they will turn up as a family and that one flight would lead into three or four flights which combined with any other flying exceeded the permitted take offs, so we have virtually stopped these flights.

We are also regular donors to The Air Ambulance Service through donations from visitors and passengers and the charity kindly presented us recently with a certificate of thanks in acknowledgement. We had hoped by allowing more flights we could have increased these badly needed donations.

The present permission is restricted to "the benefit of the applicant". I invite friends to use the site; the restriction to 6 take-offs a day limits our ability to use the runway. We do not wish to alter the level of usage but we wish to introduce some flexibility allowing us (for instance) to legally take off on one day 2 times but on the next 8 times.

Flying is totally dependent on the weather. Wind and poor visibility stops microlight flying. Work restrictions stop flying. We wish to participate in our hobby whenever we can. When opportunities arise and we are able to fly the increased flexibility to allow up to 12 take-offs allows us to enjoy our hobby without adversely affecting neighbours and amenities.

Yours sincerely,



David Corbett.