

Ribble Valley Borough Council
Development Control
Council Offices Church Walk
Clitheroe
Lancashire
BB7 2RA

Our ref: NO/2021/114100/01-L01
Your ref: 3/2021/1118
Date: 14 December 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**CHANGE OF USE OF LAND TO CREATE A 15 PITCH STATIC CARAVAN HOLIDAY PARK
LAND TO THE REAR OF THE FORMER PUNCH BOWL INN, LONGRIDGE ROAD,
HURST GREEN, BB7 9QW.**

Thank you for consulting us on the above application which we received 06 December 2021.

Environment Agency position

We have no objection to the development as proposed. We note however, that the applicant is proposing to dispose of foul drainage to the package treatment plant that served the former public house. The applicant should confirm that the existing package treatment plant is sufficient to deal with the effluent from 15 caravans. Should the discharge to the package treatment plant exceed the volume that would qualify for an exemption, the applicant should be aware that an environmental permit will need to be obtained from the Environment Agency. Please see the guidance below.

Disposal of foul drainage – advice for the applicant

Government guidance contained within the national Planning Practice Guidance (Water supply, wastewater and water quality – considerations for planning applications, paragraph 020) sets out a hierarchy of drainage options that must be considered and discounted in the following order:

1. Connection to the public sewer
2. Package sewage treatment plant (adopted in due course by the sewerage company or owned and operated under a new appointment or variation)
3. Septic Tank

Foul drainage should be connected to the main sewer. Where this is not possible, under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010 any discharge of sewage or trade effluent made to either surface water or groundwater will need to be registered as an exempt discharge activity or hold a permit issued by the Environment Agency, in addition to planning permission. This applies to any discharge to inland freshwaters, coastal waters or relevant territorial waters.

Environment Agency
Lutra House Walton Summit, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 8BX.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Cont/d..

The granting of planning permission does not guarantee the granting of an Environmental Permit. Upon receipt of a correctly filled in application form, we will carry out an assessment. It can take up to 4 months before we are in a position to decide whether to grant a permit or not.

Domestic effluent discharged from a treatment plant / septic tank at 2 cubic metres or less to ground or 5 cubic metres or less to surface water in any 24 hour period may be an exempt activity but it must comply with General Binding Rules, there must be no public foul sewer available to serve the development and the site must not be within an inner Groundwater Source Protection Zone.

A soakaway used to serve a non-mains drainage system must be sited no less than 10 metres from the nearest watercourse, not less than 10 metres from any other foul soakaway and not less than 50 metres from the nearest potable water supply.

Where the proposed development involves the connection of foul drainage to an existing non-mains drainage system, the applicant should ensure that it is in a good state of repair, regularly de-sludged and of sufficient capacity to deal with any potential increase in flow and loading which may occur as a result of the development. Where the existing non-mains drainage system is covered by a permit to discharge then an application to vary the permit will need to be made to reflect the increase in volume being discharged. It can take up to 13 weeks before we decide whether to vary a permit.

Further advice is available at <https://www.gov.uk/permits-you-need-for-septic-tanks>

The following link may also provide useful guidance;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-sewage-discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwater/domestic-sewage-discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwater>

Yours faithfully

Carole Woosey
Planning Advisor

E-mail clplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk