

Jane Tucker

From: Lorimer, Elliott <Elliott.Lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 January 2015 14:21
To: planning
Subject: RE: Consultation on planning application 3/2014/1109 land west of Trough Road and south of Langden Drive, Dunsop Bridge

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find below my comments regarding the planning application 3/2014/1109 on behalf of the AONB Partnership. These comments have also been sent to the Planning Inspectorate's Common Land team who are also consulting on the proposed WWII memorial stone, due to the fact the site is also common land:

The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The proposed memorial site is within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB), a nationally designated landscape. The landscape quality of an AONB is recognised to be of equal national importance to that of a National Park. The statutory purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. Under Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) it is a requirement for all public bodies and publically appointed officials to have due regard of the purpose of the AONB in their decision making.

AONBs and the NPPF

Section 115 of the National Planning Policy Framework states:

'Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage are important considerations in all these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads.'

Forest of Bowland AONB Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)

The AONB Landscape Character Assessment provides an objective assessment of all landscape character types within and surrounding the Forest of Bowland. The proposed WWII memorial site is within the landscape character type, 'Unenclosed Moorland Hills, B7 Langden' (relevant LCA section attached). Overall landscape character sensitivity of this landscape type is considered to be 'high'. As a result, overall capacity to accommodate change, without compromising the key characteristics of this Landscape Character Type is considered to be very limited, apart from change which reinforces positive attributes, such as habitat enhancements.

The Proposed Works

The AONB Partnership supports the principle of establishing the WWII memorial at the proposed site on Sykes Green Common. The efforts by the applicant to create a memorial using local stone are also welcomed.

However, given the landscape character sensitivity outlined above the Partnership would also like to raise a couple of concerns regarding the proposal for the applicant to address:

1. The proposed memorial stone is quite large (1.25m x 2.05m approx.) and may appear quite conspicuous at what is a fairly informal lay-by/car park. Could the applicant consider a smaller memorial stone, which would still be able to accommodate the stone tablet?
2. The proposals for the WWII memorial include a relatively formalised gravel area (5m² approx?) with stones along its boundary. Again, this would be a change to the existing informal lay-by/car park area and may again appear conspicuous within the relatively undeveloped countryside at Sykes Green Common. Accepting that there may be a need to stabilise/strengthen an area in front of the memorial to reduce erosion/wear from visitors looking at the memorial, would the applicant consider reducing the size of this gravelled area to small area just in front of the memorial stone?

In conclusion, the AONB Partnership supports the proposed erection of the WWII Memorial Stone, but requests the applicant considers the above amendments to the scheme to ensure the memorial can accord with the local landscape.

Yours faithfully
Elliott Lorimer

Elliott Lorimer
Principal AONB Officer
Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

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From: Jane Tucker [mailto:Jane.Tucker@ribblevalley.gov.uk]
Sent: 18 December 2014 14:42
To: Lorimer, Elliott
Subject: Consultation on planning application 3/2014/1109 land west of Trough Road and south of Langden Drive, Dunsop Bridge

Please will you let John Macholc have your comments on the above planning application? (Please respond to planning@ribblevalley.gov.uk FAO John Macholc).

The application is for a war memorial consisting of a plaque fixed to a stone boulder 1250mm high, 2050mm long and 400mm wide with gravel hard standing 3m wide and 3m long at the front.

Here is a link to view the submitted documents on our website
https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/site/scripts/planx_details.php?appNumber=3%2F2014%2F1109

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