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## Covering Letter in support of planning application PP-06803397

This application is written to support the request for **temporary planning consent** of a 15m x 12m marquee in the grounds of Waddow Hall for a period of **24 months**, screened to the south using sympathetic planting.

The marquee was erected in February 2017 as a temporary structure but then became an integral piece of infrastructure for supporting our growing number of events and day visitors. I was not aware of the need for planning consent for such a structure and it was raised with me in August 2017 by Stephen Barker. We therefore applied for pre-application advice which was given via Rachel Horton in December 2017.

The marquee was purchased by a subsidiary group of Waddow Hall called the Friends of Waddow. This group is membership based, raising funds to purchase income-generating extras that the business cannot fund from its own budget. The group also acts as a volunteer support network for our events and the committee were keen to provide tangible support for our growing educational tourism market with suitable, cost-reducing infrastructure that had quickly become operationally essential.

A summary of the business supported by the addition of the marquee since February 2017 is below:

- 4 large-scale Girlguiding events; with approximately 400 attendees & 20 volunteers at our February 2017 & 2018 events; 600 attendees & 30 volunteers at our June event and 1500 attendees and 100 volunteers at our August event with attendees coming from as far as Bangor in Wales, the Isle of Man, Inverness in Scotland and Lincoln. These events provide unique opportunities to the girls and young women that our volunteer leaders support within the organisation and are held in 2 or 3 Girlguiding venues across the country simultaneously. They are action-packed and fun filled events designed to improve or encourage self-confidence, social skills, decision making skills and independence, as well as educate the girls in practical skills such as first aid, survival skills and science & technology. They are events that provide time-efficient options to our volunteer leaders and, more importantly, provide volunteer leaders the chance to bring their girls, regardless of whether they hold their organisation residential licence or not, therefore supporting improved social mobility within the organisation and, indeed, the Ribble Valley. As these events are all camping based, the

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen  
President: Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex  
Chief Guide: Amanda Medler Chief Executive: Julie Bentley

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marquee acted as a dining room for 3 of the events and then as a craft and activity space for the 4<sup>th</sup> event.

- 2 community events, with approximately 1000 attendees at our Easter Family Fun Day event and 250 attendees at our Christmas event. There is a further community event planned for August 2018 when we would expect approximately 500-1000 attendees
- Various small-scale Girlguiding events with a total number of 455 attendees from the age of 4 years old in 2017 and 495 so far booked in 2018. These events are either day visits or camping residentials and focus on educational fun, utilising our adventure activities and offering opportunities such as stargazing, gardening, archiving, walking, first aid and survival skills
- 27 visiting schools in 2017 were here for educational teambuilding activity days and using the marquee. This was a total of 1909 students from across the north of England. Furthermore, there were 950 young people from other youth groups or on independent guiding trips that hired the marquee for activities during their visit.
- 2 wedding receptions for nearly 200 guests - a large percentage of which were from outside of the Ribble Valley
- Unknown number of fencing and teambuilding activity sessions throughout the year - particularly since the change in weather from September 2017

The total number of visitors to our site in 2017 was 24,418 and approximately 30% of those utilized the marquee in some way, as outlined above. It has allowed us to widen our offer, support higher numbers and has positively impacted on our ability to continue growing our educational tourism market, particularly with schools and events for girl guides.

For the reasons outline above, we respectfully request permission for temporary permanency for 24 months.

For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Becky Allen  
Manager

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