

Nicola Gunn

From: Planning
Subject: RE: comment on planning application 3/2021/0047

From:
Sent: 29 January 2021 20:50
To: Planning <planning@ribblevalley.gov.uk>
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29/1/2021

Dear Sir,

I wish to comment on planning application 3/2021/0047 (Spout Farm, Preston Rd., Longridge PR3 3BE).

This application relates to, yet another, development in the vicinity of the Alston reservoirs and the Alston Wetland nature reserve. In itself, this is surprising given the similar but, apparently, now abandoned development just a few hundred yards away, along Chapel Hill (opposite St Cecilia's High School).

The proposed development, inevitably increases pressure on the surrounding natural environment and a key conservation area; specifically the Alston Wetland nature reserve. To put this into context, Alston Wetland is (along with the nearby Grimsargh Wetlands) a regionally important staging post/roosting site, situated between the Ribble Estuary and the Bowland Fells, for a range of Red-listed waders (lapwing, curlew, whimbrel) and other migratory birds. Furthermore, the site is a significant hunting ground for local barn owls and other raptors (e.g. peregrines). As such, it is incumbent upon you to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are mandated in order to ensure the protection of the wildlife on the Wetland and nearby reservoirs.

Specifically, the security of the Wetland must be ensured in order to prevent trespass (either accidental or intentional, human and/or canine/feline) from the development. To this end, the proposed 'instant native hedgerow' is wholly inadequate and must be substantially reinforced/supplemented with robust fencing, if the existing mature hedgerow is not to be retained.

Secondly, the application describes an embarrassingly paltry collection of bat and bird boxes that will be erected around the development. A full complement of 20-30 boxes would be much more appropriate for a development of this size and should be mandated. Sadly, this would in no way compensate for the loss of nesting sites/opportunities that has already occurred following the felling of trees and removal of shrubs from the area.

I hope you will give serious consideration to the above suggestions, they represent the bare minimum that needs be done to mitigate the effects of this development on the local wildlife and environment.

Yours