



EXTENSION OF EXISTING WEDDING BARN TO CREATE A CEREMONY ROOM

AT

HOBBIT HILL, FOXFIELDS FARM, STONYHURST.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

An application for planning permission has been submitted to Ribble Valley Borough Council to extend the existing wedding and events venue at Hobbit Hill, Foxfields Farm, Stonyhurst.

The existing wedding barn was completed in October 2020 and due to the Covid19 pandemic the building has not been fully operational. The venue is a fantastic asset to the local area and has been successful in attracting couples and well over 100 wedding bookings have been taken since completion. The Hobbit Hill venue has an outdoor wedding ceremony area located in the adjacent Round Wood. This situation is ideal when the weather is good but can cause issues for the wedding party during poor weather conditions.

Potential wedding parties and planners have suggested that a separate indoor ceremony room would be a key addition to the barn to allow guests to have the ceremony inside and out of any inclement weather which will inevitably occur during spring and summer but predominantly later in the calendar year.

There is therefore an urgent need for an indoor ceremony room which is located separate to the main function space. This will allow weddings to be confidently held during poor weather conditions throughout the year.

The new ceremony room will not increase the overall capacity at the venue as the same number of people will be using the room for the ceremonial aspects of their wedding day. Visitor numbers, access and parking arrangements will be unaffected by the proposal and will remain as existing.

The proposed extension will allow Hobbit Hill to grow and strengthen the existing business and their ongoing success will provide employment opportunities for local people, business for local suppliers and it will also encourage more visitors to the area improving the local economy.

It is imperative to the success of the venue that the new ceremony room can be constructed and occupied prior to the onset of inclement weather later in the year. Bearing this in mind the submission of a formal pre-application enquiry was carefully considered but decided against. This was due to the pressure on the timescale for delivery of the project, the relatively small scale and ancillary nature of the proposal and the perceived compliance with planning policies relating to employment and tourism.

We therefore respectfully request that the application be processed in a timely manner whilst acknowledging the current difficulties during the ongoing pandemic.

Frank Whittle Partnership

April 2021