

26th March 2024.

Dear M/s Hughes,

Mr & Mrs Stummer Appn. 3/2022/0841

We continue to object to this application even though it now appears to have been watered down somewhat by removing the part of it relating to use as an allotment.

The plot is effectively landlocked being an island strip of farmland that is accessed through an allotment that has never been used as an allotment. If the application is granted it poses the question as to what the continued use of the plot will be? The only answer can be that the owners are very likely to continue to use it as an ornamental garden for social, domestic and pleasure purposes. The pond resembles a dipping/swimming pool in size and is still surrounded by decking with rockeries also in place and a boarded footpath on the fence side directly against Greystones boundary. Whilst the area has been slightly cleared recently it could all soon be reinstated to an ornamental garden with lighting as the owners work all day on the plot.

It would be completely wrong and inequitable to grant the application when considering the history of this and the adjoining plot since purchase by the applicants who have failed to adhere to the allotment use of the first plot and various other planning rules and regulations. This application is effectively for retrospective consent therefore the owners previous actions and behaviour should be considered so as to understand what may happen in the future. Powerful ground lights had been installed and the area used for sunbathing, parties and family gatherings around barbecues. All this on a plot of agricultural land that is not part of a domestic residence but overlooks one belonging to someone else. If the applicants are seeking a fair and reasonable outcome to their application they must themselves have acted fairly and reasonably and not unlawfully in the past but this is certainly not the case here when considering the history of this and the adjoining plot. The allotment hasn't been used as such but utilised as a work area with unlawful structures, lights, tree felling and their failure to remove the Tiny House which has now been resited up against the boundary with Greystones and enhanced with more decking and a garden area. This type of behaviour has gone on for the past four or five years so it is highly unlikely the applicants will change their ways now and they will no doubt continue just pleasing themselves.

Whatever the future intended use of the plot it adjoins two private houses in Merlewood and Greystones and completely overlooks Greystones. There is every possibility of noise, light pollution and general nuisance affecting these properties if the plot continues to be used for social, domestic and pleasure purposes not to mention the impact on wildlife and biodiversity and the general flora and fauna of the area.

For all these reasons and the fact it constitutes urbanisation of the countryside the application should be refused and the whole plot returned to agricultural farmland.

Yours sincerely,

Report of Parish Meeting,

Beverly Phillips,  
Chair.