

From: Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer <clerk@boltonbybowland-gisburnforest-sawley-pc.org.uk>
Sent: 08 December 2025 16:39
To: Planning
Subject: 3/2025/0517 Dockber Farm, Sawley

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Dear Sir/Madam

Please find below some observations on 3/2025/0517. We are aware that the observations are late but though they had been submitted in October 2025 which was clearly not the case.

Yours faithfully

Cathy Holmes

Cathy Holmes
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley Parish Council

2. 3/2025/0517. Dockber Laithe Farm

This is shown as a Retrospective application for the construction of a building to be used as a small scale pet crematorium facility. The work was started on 7 January 2024 and completed on 7 March 2024.

Note that this is not a planning application for a pet crematorium. According to the letter of 2 July 2025 from Richard Turner and Son the crematorium and all associated equipment including the chimney have been installed and are fully licensed and certified by DEFRA and APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency). I can't find any previous planning application for a pet crematorium and I would have thought that planning permission from the local authority would have been required. This needs to be checked.

This pet crematorium has therefore been operating probably since some time last year. The building and chimney were constructed and completed in March 2024. I would like to think the Ribble Valley planners will wish to look very carefully at retrospective applications of this nature, particularly as DEFRA/APHA will presumably have been actively involved in the design, and must have given advice. Why has it taken so long to make the planning application?

I would also expect the Planners to review the DEFRA/APHA licenses and certification to make sure that everything has been done properly.

There are a number of aspects in the documentation forwarded that I find very confusing. For example, the continued use of the term "proposed building" when it has already been constructed (Richard Turner's letter).

Also, the document from Martin Environmental Solutions Ltd dated September refers to “Consideration of Potential Odour Impact from Proposed Pet Crematorium.....”. Why are they presenting the situation like this?

Although the development does not physically impact on a public Right of Way I have seen, and forwarded to Cathy and Andrew, a video which shows flames and black smoke pouring out of the chimney, and I’m told that this was not a one-off. Unfortunately I can’t send the video by email, but if anyone would like to see it I can sent on WhatsApp. I will attach some photos. I don’t know if the thick black smoke and flames are from the burning of animals, or if the farmer is using the incinerator for other burning, but it seems to me that the chimney is not tall enough, and I dread to think where all this dirty pollutant ends up. Again, I would want the planners and DEFRA/APHA to look into this. I can’t imagine that output like this is as designed. The chimney is not all that far from the Right of Way.

In conclusion, I just feel that this needs to be looked at in detail to make sure that everything is being done in accordance with planning rules and DEFRA/APHA Guidelines.